MCGUINTY PLACES HOLD ON MMA, PG 18

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Style pg 29

Layers a key trend at N.Y. shows

Tiger ready to come out of hiding

SPOTLIGHT Tiger Woods will end nearly three months of silence tomorrow when he speaks publicly for the first time since his middle-of-the-night car accident that sparked stunning revelations of infidelity.

However, his agent said Woods will not take any questions from a small group of media.

"This is not a press conference," Mark Steinberg said yesterday.

It will be Woods' first public appearance since Nov. 27, when he crashed his SUV outside his Florida home. Woods' only comments since then have been made through his website. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CARTOON, PAGE 14

News on the Move

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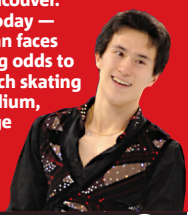
Vancouver Games

Follow Metro as we bring you daily coverage throughout the 2010 Winter Olympics in Vancouver.

- **Today — Chan faces long odds to reach skating podium, page 20**



On the web

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Silver Wear

PAUL CHIASSON/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Canada's Marianne St-Gelais celebrates last night after winning the silver medal in the women's 500-metre final in short-track speedskating at the 2010 Olympic Winter Games in Vancouver. More coverage, pages 20, 21.

Damage control

Hotelier named head of TTC customer service advisory panel

Steve O'Brien just took on one of the hardest jobs in Toronto — for free.

The general manager of the One King West condo-hotel has been named the volunteer head of the TTC's customer service advisory panel, the new board that's meant to rescue the transit system's bad reputation.

The Etobicoke-born O'Brien uses the subway and streetcars "a few times a week" to get to meetings and considers himself "a Toronto guy."

"The best thing to do is bite your lip and try and get this person to give me another chance."
Steve O'Brien

"I'm not going into this foolishly," said the 44-year-old after the commission announced his appointment yesterday.

The transit agency has been forced to address its customer relations after passenger anger escalated following a fare hike, slowdowns, ticket and token problems and, finally, a photo of a napping fare collector that went viral online.

O'Brien will try to find a solution and says his approach to unreasonable customers is "quite honestly, to work a little bit harder."

"The best thing to do is bite your lip and try and get this person to give me another chance. I've had people who were upset and vowed never to use the hotel again become long-term customers."

Along with drafting a passenger's Charter of Rights, the customer service panel will recommend how employees can help make using the system more enjoyable.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Don't fear alarm fines: Fire chief

BUDGET Misguided Good Samaritans who summon the fire department to false alarms will not have to fear fines under new rules proposed by the city. Nor, in fact, would any individual Torontonian, fire Chief Bill Stewart said yesterday.

As always, fines are to be imposed after "malicious" or "nuisance" false alarms. And, as always, the fines would be imposed on the owners of apartment buildings, not tenants and almost never residents of single-family homes.

The only change under the proposed new rules, Stewart said, is the fines would be levied after the first false alarm.

"People are saying, 'Will I be charged if I call for the smell of smoke or a strange odour?' The answer is no. That's most definite," Stewart said. "The first point here is: If they believe there's a fire, they smell smoke, strange odour — please, by all means, call Toronto Fire Services ... We're coming, as always."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Critics

- The proposed change, which would take effect in May, has been criticized by both the Toronto Community Housing Corp. and private property companies. If the change is implemented when the city budget is finalized, the city stands to take in an estimated $900,000 more in fines from its own arm's-length landlord.

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Closed budget talks 'improper'

Inquiry concludes secret briefings contravened provincial act

Secret meetings of Toronto councillors preparing the 2009 operating budget were "improperly closed" to the public, an internal inquiry has concluded.

The report was released one day after the carefully managed presentation of the 2010 operating budget, balanced without messy political debate in public and with the help of a $219 million surplus that was a surprise to most councillors.

Three meetings between November 2008 and January 2009 involved a quorum of budget committee members who gave "substantive" input on the city's spending blueprint, wrote Lorne Sossin, a University of Toronto law professor brought in to investigate after Councillor Case Ootes complained.

"Because the committee briefings in question were held in camera, without notice to the public, and with no city clerk staff present, it is impossible to know precisely what was said..."
Lorne Sossin, U of T law professor

"Because the committee briefings in question were held in camera, without notice to the public, and with no city clerk staff present, it is impossible to know precisely what was said or discussed at these briefings ...," Sossin wrote.

"In these circumstances, I find that these three committee briefings constituted closed 'meetings,' " in contravention of the provincial act, he concluded.

However, Sossin, who was Toronto's interim integrity commissioner in 2008 and part of 2009, goes on to say that, based on interviews with participants, they didn't intend to do anything improper and thought they were acting in the best interests of the city.

Ootes said yesterday he is pleased with Sossin's findings about the budget process that was adopted in 2005. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

MORE COVERAGE, PAGE 4

Tomorrow's Metro

Comment

John Sewell writes about local issues facing the GTA in Urban Compass.

metronews.ca
WHAT'S ONLINE TODAY

Blogs Bob Lenarduzzi joins It's Called Football to dismiss rumours of a front office split in the Whitecaps organization and Hollywood Rants has a place to vent if Oscar skipped your favourite flick.

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Back to business for TTC's Giambrone

CITY HALL "It's very good to be back. There's lots to do."

And with that TTC Chair Adam Giambrone made it clear that it's back to the business of running the city's transit system.

For the first time since apologizing for a series of affairs with young women, Giambrone faced the media head-on, saying he won't resign from the TTC and he still hasn't decided whether to run again in his Davenport ward.

The relaxed, direct appearance was a dramatic departure from a news conference a week earlier in which a visibly shaken Giambrone fled the podium after publicly apologizing to his partner Sarah McQuarrie, his family and council colleagues for a series of affairs with young women.

TTC Chair Adam Giambrone returned to his seat yesterday for an afternoon TTC meeting at city hall.

BLACK GUIDANCE/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Earlier yesterday media staked out a closed-door meeting waiting for Giambrone to exit.

But when he did, it was through a door on the opposite end of the room. The ensuing spectacle saw the lanky councillor outpace a pack of microphone and camera-wielding press full-circle around the second floor rotunda at city hall.

Once inside the TTC's monthly public meeting, Giambrone was his confident self, moving briskly through a long list of staff citations. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

No more cash

- Premier Dalton McGuinty says Ontario doesn't have any money this year to help fund the Toronto Transit Commission. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Man gets one year jail for child porn

A man from Essex, Ont., has been sentenced to one year in jail for possessing and distributing child pornography. Donald Costin, 47, pleaded guilty yesterday in a Windsor court to one count of possession and one count of distribution. METRO NEWS SERVICES

No easy fix for budget woes

City facing large structural deficit

Finding a way to balance Toronto's multi-billion-dollar operating budget is no easy task.

For 2010, the city had to plug a $433-million gap that finance officials describe as a structural deficit.

Those are expenses for items that city council supports and wants to fund every year, but there's no money. That means looking for cash wherever it can be found, including pleading with the provincial government for special assistance.

Joe Pennachetti

Critics of Mayor David Miller's administration, such as Coun. Doug Holyday, say the city is going at it the wrong way. Instead of trying to find more revenues, the city should be lowering its expenses. But even Holyday concedes that would not be easy.

"To cut $433 million is a huge undertaking," he said. "You'd have to spend quite some time at it."

However, the critics fault Miller for not trying hard enough.

The city eliminated about half the $433 million gap by deploying its $219 million surplus from last year. That surplus was created in part by spending restraint, which meant departments had money left over in their budgets at Dec. 31.

Normally the departmental surpluses would be used to lower debt costs, says city manager Joe Pennachetti. Instead, it went into the operating budget to pay day-to-day expenses.

The larger-than-normal surplus was boosted by such pleasant surprises as the fact land transfer tax revenues came in $10 million higher than expected.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Economy **Movies, TV a big hit**

KEITH BEATY/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Ontario Media Development Corporation president Karen Thorne-Stone, right, and Jake Myers, executive producer of Red speak yesterday after the corporation released numbers indicating it contributed roughly $946 million to the provincial economy in 2009, a 41 per cent increase over 2008.

News in brief

LEGAL AID The "clinic resource office" is on the hit list as Legal Aid Ontario makes major service cuts, which community legal clinics fear will curb their ability to serve the needy. An email obtained by the Toronto Star says Legal Aid Ontario is projecting a deficit of $46.7 million this year, despite the recent provincial government decision to invest an additional $150 million in legal aid services over the next four years.

ZOO The Toronto zoo is set to announce a new CEO as early as today, say sources, who add that one of his chief responsibilities will be kick-starting the attraction's delayed $250-million fundraising campaign. After meeting behind closed doors today the zoo board will announce that they have chosen John Tracogna, who was named general manager of Ontario Place in 2008 and has executive experience in tourism and economic development with the cities of Brampton and Toronto.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Kindergarten legislation introduced

DAYCARE Legislation has been introduced to create all-day learning for four- and five-year-olds in Ontario starting this fall.

The bill calls on school boards to offer full-day junior and senior kindergarten in addition to extended-day programs that would be offered even on days when schools are closed.

About 580 schools will offer the full-day learning to about 35,000 children starting in September, which will expand to all elementary schools in Ontario by 2015 at a cost of $1.5 billion a year.

Each class will include a teacher and an early childhood educator and up to 26 children, higher than the current primary class cap of 20 to 23 kids.

Parents can pay extra for child care before 9 a.m. and after 3:30 p.m., which would be provided by early childhood educators, and subsidies will be available for low-income families.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Hamilton office park the site of new Canada Bread bakery

Canada Bread says it plans to build its big new bakery in Hamilton in North Glanbrook Industrial Park. The 35,000-square-metre facility is expected to provide 300 jobs once completed in 2011. Speculation over the location has been rife since Canada Bread announced it was looking for a site outside Toronto. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

Control the CN Tower with your brain – really

Mind tricks are a complex business. They won't work on Jabba the Hutt, but they will work on the CN Tower. At least for the Olympics.

At the Ontario pavilion in Vancouver, a Toronto-based firm is using brain wave technology to let people manipulate the lighting on some of Ontario's most famous tourist attractions — the CN Tower, Niagara Falls and Parliament Hill.

The exhibit opens every morning at 10 a.m. but goes live at 3 p.m. in Vancouver, when the sky is dark in Toronto.

"The lineups have been crazy. Even before we finish setting up, there's already 10 to 15 people in line," said Trevor Coleman, chief operating officer of InteraXon.

People wait up to two hours to sit in a comfortable chair and unleash their thoughts on beloved tourist attractions.

The lighting is controlled by two types of brain wave. Alpha waves — achieved by relaxation — bring the lights on the CN Tower closer to the observation deck, and beta waves — achieved by concentration — cause the lights to spread out and flicker in such a way that they appear to be spinning quickly around the tower.

Electrodes attached to the forehead monitor the brain waves and transmit the data to the tower in milliseconds. When people create alpha waves, their chairs rumble. If someone reaches "peak beta" and holds it through concentration, the CN Tower lights up as bright as it can go and flashes different colours. **TORSTAR NEWS SERVICES**

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Accused in Stafford case remanded until April

TRIAL A man accused in the abduction and slaying of Woodstock, Ont., schoolgirl Tori Stafford appeared by video while lawyers discussed legal issues at a closed hearing yesterday. Michael Rafferty, 29, was remanded in custody until April 23.

The Crown and defence discussed legal issues involving Rafferty in advance of a preliminary hearing.

Tori Stafford

Late last year, Crown attorney Brian Crockett said a preliminary hearing will be scheduled between June 21 and July 13.

Rafferty's co-accused, 19-year-old Terri-Lynn McClintic, has waived her right to a preliminary hearing. McClintic will go directly to trial once dates are set at a court appearance in March.

Both suspects are charged with first-degree murder and kidnapping in the death of eight-year-old Tori.

The girl disappeared from outside her Woodstock school last April and her remains were found in July north of Guelph, Ont. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

News in brief

COLLISION A 44-year-old woman faces charges after two pedestrians were struck yesterday morning at a busy Leaside intersection. The two female victims are both in hospital, one in critical condition, after a car hit them around 8:30 a.m. The pedestrians were walking north across Eglinton Avenue East at Bayview Avenue when they were struck by an eastbound red Acura, Toronto police Sgt. Tim Burrows said. Police have charged Elaine McGaffey with careless driving and failing to stop at a red light. **TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE**

Former cop denied legal aid for appeal

Already racked up $1.2M in fees

Ontario's top court has denied a convicted murderer, who ran up a $1.2-million legal aid bill, more taxpayer funding for an appeal.

Richard Wills was convicted in 2002 of the first-degree murder of his mistress Linda Mariani.

Richard Wills

Wills, a former Toronto police officer and one-time self-described millionaire, systematically divested himself of his assets and then applied for legal aid.

He made an application to Ontario's Appeal Court for funding to provide legal assistance with his appeal, but the court dismissed it.

In a judgment released yesterday, the court writes that Wills is a "well-educated man" with long experience in the justice system and is capable of presenting his appeal without a lawyer.

The court also writes that although Wills has raised 35 possible grounds of appeal, "the court should have little difficulty understanding and resolving the various issues."

CFTO/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Accused refused bail after fatal hit and run

CRASH A New Brunswick judge has denied bail for a woman charged in a hit and run last August that killed a woman from Toronto in a motorized wheelchair.

Darcie Victoria West, 20, of Chipman, N.B., sobbed in court yesterday as Judge Julian Dickson ordered her to remain in custody until a preliminary hearing set for April 6.

She has elected to be tried by judge alone.

West is charged with leaving the scene of an accident knowing that someone had been seriously injured.

She's also charged with attempting to impede justice by destroying evidence and with intimidating witnesses.

Dianne Trottier, 33, died Aug. 30, a day after being struck late at night while crossing a downtown Fredericton intersection.

A CBC producer from Toronto, Trottier was working temporarily in Fredericton to help launch a new suppertime news program.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Charges laid in cabbie death

CRASH Ontario Provincial Police have found the vehicle and driver they've been searching for in connection with a traffic death early Sunday morning, CBC News Online reports.

OPP Sgt. Dave Woodford said Ernesto Ditri, 30, of Woodbridge, has been charged with impaired driving causing death, criminal negligence causing death, and two counts of public mischief.

Ditri was allegedly driving a Hyundai Elantra that was involved in a collision with a taxi driven by Kesar Singh at about 3:30 a.m. in the southbound lanes of Highway 427 near Eglinton Avenue West on Feb. 14.

Singh pulled over to inspect the damage to his cab and the Hyundai fled the scene.

Minutes later, Singh, 64, was struck by a GMC Envoy, which crashed into his disabled car.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

News in brief

HAMILTON A number of townhouse units were evacuated early yesterday morning after a fire at a townhouse complex in Hamilton. Firefighters believe the blaze was sparked by an explosion in a nearby car. Everybody inside the units got out safely and no injuries were reported.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Mounties testing cameras that will keep tabs on Tasers
RCMP officers are testing two kinds of cameras that will record Taser firings during six-month field trials. The tests come amid growing concern about police accountability on use of stun guns, which deliver a powerful jolt that incapacitates suspects. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Canada

McGuinty: Let Danny talk

Premier Dalton McGuinty, left, says people should wait to hear from Danny Williams before criticizing the Newfoundland and Labrador premier's decision to have heart surgery in the U.S. Until Williams speaks, McGuinty says, we won't know if his condition was treatable here.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Rights agency called 'rogue'

Opposition MPs say a government-funded agency has gone "rogue."

The agency, Rights and Democracy, is "out of control," they claim.

And they want Foreign Affairs Minister Lawrence Cannon to rein it in.

"We've got a board at war with the staff, a staff at war with the board," Liberal Leader Michael Ignatieff said yesterday.

"We've got internationally renowned human rights experts resigning from the board in protest.

"We're closing down the Geneva office, which is where a lot of international human rights business is done.

"The government is watching a kind of slow-motion train wreck take place, which is harming Canada's international reputation."

"The government is watching a kind of slow-motion train wreck."
Michael Ignatieff

He urged Cannon to press the "pause button" until the high-profile problems can be sorted out.

The Conservatives have been accused of stacking the board of the agency in a bid to bring a more pro-Israel focus to its work.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Just in **Stephen Colbert is in love with Canada**

NATHAN DENETTE/THE CANADIAN PRESS

U.S. comedian Stephen Colbert has landed at the Vancouver Olympics. Colbert has been poking fun at Canadians on his Colbert Report. But here he lustily sings O Canada with crooner Michael Bublé, left, during filming of his talk show at a public park. Fans dressed up as beavers and bears for the occasion. Colbert loved it. "I take back everything I ever said about Canada," he said.

Federal unions get pay warning

MONEY Treasury Board President Stockwell Day says the federal government has to "live within its means," and the public service has to be part of the plan to eliminate the deficit.

Speaking after meetings with two of the federal government's largest unions, Day would not rule out pension or wage cuts — moves the unions have lobbied hard to stop.

But he promised to work with labour to "maintain the integrity" of pension plans. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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SCANLIFE

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Latimer again denied extended leave from B.C. halfway house

Robert Latimer, the Saskatchewan farmer who killed his severely disabled daughter, has again lost his bid for an extended leave from his British Columbia halfway house. Last October, Latimer was taken into custody when he returned to his apartment after an extended leave instead of the halfway house. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Sir Richard Branson

Branson plumbing new depths

After reaching for the stars, Sir Richard Branson is now aiming in the other direction — the billionaire businessman plans to plunge into the depths of the ocean.

Branson was in Montreal promoting Virgin Oceanics, his latest business venture that begins with the development of a new three-man submarine for underwater travel.

The sub, christened the Necker Nymph, is due to arrive this month in the British Virgin Islands, where Branson lives on the island of Necker.

It will plunge to about 40 metres below the ocean's surface and allow passengers to view the wonders of the sea "without having to be a trained diver," said a speech Branson was to deliver to management students at McGill University.

"The Nymph in time will be followed by new generations of submarines able to get way down, farther than we've ever been before," said the prepared text.

Virgin Galactic, one of Branson's recent companies, has already booked 300 astronauts for trips into sub-orbital space. If testing goes well, the two-hour commercial space flights are expected to start before 2013.

SpaceShip Two would be launched from a carrier plane, with space tourists eventually reaching 110 kilometres above the Earth. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Canadians' blood pressure rising: Study

HEALTH Almost one in five Canadian adults have high blood pressure that puts them at risk for heart attacks, strokes and kidney disease — but a significant proportion are unaware they even have the condition, a survey has found.

The Statistics Canada study suggests about 4.6 million Canadians aged 20 to 79 have high blood pressure.

At risk

- A person is considered to have high blood pressure if their top, or systolic, reading is 140 or greater, and the bottom, or diastolic, number is at or exceeds 90.

"Altogether, we found that the prevalence of hypertension was 19 per cent," said Kathryn Wilkins, a senior analyst at Statistics Canada who led the study.

"It went up dramatically with age," Wilkins said yesterday from Ottawa. "In the age group 20 to 39, there was only a prevalence of two per cent of hypertension; at ages 40 to 59, it was 19 per cent; and then at 60 to 79, over half — 53 per cent of people — had hypertension."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Bouchard blasts PQ 'radicalism'

SOVEREIGNTISTS Lucien Bouchard, the charismatic former Parti Québécois premier who once nearly marched Quebec sovereigntists into the promised land of independence, yesterday rebuked not only the party's current behaviour but called into question its entire raison d'etre.

Not only is independence on the shelf but it's not even something Quebecers should be focusing on for now, Bouchard said during a public forum in Quebec City. He also suggested the party was becoming radical and was pandering to ugly prejudices. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Iggy upset over negative jabs at Games

Michael Ignatieff says he's angry about the criticism being levelled at organizers of the Vancouver Winter Games. The Liberal leader dismisses the critics, primarily foreign journalists, as "nattering nabobs of negativism." THE CANADIAN PRESS

Feds not ready for age crunch: Report

The federal government is headed for a financial train wreck if it doesn't start planning for the country's aging population, says Canada's budget watchdog.

That's the conclusion of a report by the parliamentary budget officer on how aging will impact Canada's economy, its living standards and Ottawa's fiscal position.

Kevin Page's report, to be released today, is the first in Canada to take a long-lens approach — 75 years — to the economy and government finances.

The outlook isn't pretty. Fewer Canadians working to support an increasing number of the retired will mean reduced improvements in living standards and gutted government finances.

In the long term, Canadians can expect to see the growth in their living standard, defined as per capita real gross domestic product, to be cut in half from the two per cent annual growth they've enjoyed since the 1960s.

The report's conclusion is that fiscal structure is not in place, and the most practical way to deal with the shortfall is to raise revenues — likely through tax increases.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Quebec Le Devoir centenary

CLEMENT ALLARD/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Quebec MLAs applaud Le Devoir workers in the gallery at the end of question period yesterday at the Quebec legislature. The Montreal newspaper founded by Henri Bourassa celebrates its 100th anniversary this year.

Nuclear plans may face delay

ENERGY Ontario's plans to build two new nuclear reactors could suffer another delay this month with the expiration of the only bid accepted by the province, from Atomic Energy of Canada Ltd., the government conceded yesterday.

The province announced in 2006 that it wanted to build two new nuclear reactors to supply electricity, and eventually rejected two foreign bids, from AREVA of France and Westinghouse of the United States, in favour of AECL.

Ontario also found AECL's bid was far too expensive — at a reported $26 billion — and has been trying to negotiate. That's been difficult since the federal government decided to restructure the nuclear agency, said Premier Dalton McGuinty.

The province could extend the deadline, or it could reopen the bidding process, although that's not the preferred option, said Energy Minister Brad Duguid. THE CANADIAN PRESS

News in brief

ASSAULT A three-month-old baby is in an Ottawa hospital fighting for its life and a Sudbury-area man is facing charges. Sudbury police say an investigation began early Saturday morning after reports of an injured child at a home in nearby Chelmsford. The child's 21-year-old father is in custody awaiting a bail hearing tomorrow. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Man with fake pass got close to Biden
CTV reported yesterday that a mentally unstable man, using a fake pass, was able to get within a few metres of U.S. Vice-President Joe Biden last Friday during opening ceremonies for the Vancouver Olympics. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

World

Court suspends results of election

Ukraine's presidential election results giving the victory to Russia-friendly Viktor Yanukovych were suspended yesterday pending review of his rival's appeal. Ukraine's Administrative Court said it would rule on the appeal of Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko, left, by Feb. 25, when lawmakers had planned to inaugurate Yanukovych. Tymoshenko has refused to concede, claiming the election was tainted by fraud. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

News in brief

CANING Authorities in Malaysia caned three Muslim women for having extramarital sex, making them the first women in the country to receive such punishment under Islamic law, an official said yesterday. Each woman received between four and six strokes of a rattan cane, the official said on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to make public statements. Home Minister Hishammuddin Hussein announced the caning. He did not release details of their identities but said that one of the women was released last week after spending a month in prison. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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SCANLIFE

Cheerful slogans pepper Baghdad, but most are uneasy about dark days ahead of pending elections. Scan this code for the story.

France pledges $400M

Nicolas Sarkozy promised $400 million US in aid for quake-stricken Haiti yesterday as he made the first visit ever by a French president to what was once his nation's richest colony.

Haiti Crisis

"I want only to say to the Haitian people, 'You are not alone,'" Sarkozy said at a news conference on the grounds of Haiti's National Palace, one of many government buildings shattered by the Jan. 12 earthquake.

Some Haitians see France's renewed interest in their nation as a counterbalance to the U.S., which has sent troops there three times in the past 16 years. But Sarkozy's visit is also reviving bitter memories of the crippling costs of Haiti's 1804 independence.

A third of the population was killed in an uprising against exceptionally brutal slavery, an international embargo was imposed to deter slave revolts elsewhere and 90 million pieces of gold were demanded by Paris from the world's first black republic.

The debt hobbled Haiti for much of its history.

Some people handed out fliers in the streets protesting Sarkozy's visit and blaming France for enslaving Haiti.

Sarkozy acknowledged the "wounds of colonization" during comments at the undamaged French Embassy, and later said, "I know well the story of our countries on the question of debt."

With an eye on that old grievance, France has already said it was cancelling all of Haiti's $77 million debt to Paris. The aid package also will include reconstruction money, emergency aid and $40 million in support for the Haitian government's budget.

Sarkozy said Haiti needs a reconstruction plan that bolsters the outlying provinces to help shift people away from Port-au-Prince, the Caribbean's most densely populated capital. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

8 of 10 released

- Eight of 10 American missionaries were freed from a Haitian jail yesterday, nearly three weeks after being charged with child kidnapping for trying to take a group of children out of the quake-stricken country.

Afghanistan Flag over Marjah

ALTAF QADRI/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

An Afghan Army soldier salutes an Afghan flag after hoisting it on a building in a market in Marjah yesterday. About 15,000 NATO and Afghan troops are taking part in the offensive around the town under Taliban control.

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Reno reveals old inscription
A home renovation in Jerusalem's Old City has yielded a rare Arabic inscription offering insight into the city's history under Muslim rule. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

DNA sheds light on Tutu

Scientists who decoded the DNA of some southern Africans have found striking new evidence of the genetic diversity on that continent, and uncovered a surprise about the ancestry of Archbishop Desmond Tutu.

They found, for example, that any two Bushmen in their study who spoke different languages were more different genetically than a European compared to an Asian. That was true even if the Bushmen lived within walking distance of each other.

"If we really want to understand human diversity, we need to go to (southern) Africa," said Stephan Schuster of Pennsylvania State University. He's an author of the study, which appears in today's issue of Nature.

The study also found 1.3 million tiny variations that hadn't been observed before in any human DNA. That should help scientists sort out whether particular genes promote certain diseases or influence a person's response to medications.

The genetic diversity of Africa's population is no surprise to scientists. Modern humans evolved on that continent about 200,000 years ago and have lived there longer than anyplace else. So that's where they've had the most time to develop genetic differences.

Desmond Tutu

Tutu was included to represent a Bantu ancestry, in contrast to Bushmen. But when researchers looked at Tutu's genome, they found surprising evidence that his mother's ancestry includes at least one Bushman woman. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Shootings spark gun ban proposal

SCHOOLS A Finnish government commission yesterday proposed a ban on semiautomatic handguns after two school shootings in recent years left 20 people dead.

The ban, which needs parliamentary approval, would sharply reduce the number of legal weapons in a country that ranks among the world's top five in civilian gun ownership.

The Nordic nation of 5.3 million has 650,000 licensed gun owners. Of some 250,000 handguns, more than 200,000 are semiautomatic, according to commission chairman Pekka Sauri.

The recommendation came in a report on an attack in September 2008, when a 22-year-old gunman killed nine fellow students and a teacher before shooting himself at a vocational high school in Kauhajoki, western Finland.

Less than a year earlier, a teenage student fatally shot eight people and himself at Jokela High School in Tuusula, near the capital, Helsinki.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Zundel to be released

Far-right activist Ernst Zundel will soon be released from prison after serving his five-year sentence for denying the Holocaust, a German prosecutor said. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

world 13

India **Guns for kids**

ANUPAM NATH/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Schoolchildren look at arms displayed by the Indian army yesterday during a public show in Gauhati, India. The show was held by the Red Horns division of the army as part of attracting the youth to the army.

Air France search planned

A new $10-million international search for the remains of Air France Flight 447 will begin in mid-March, nearly nine months after the passenger jet crashed in the Atlantic depths, France's chief air accident investigator said yesterday.

The search plan, involving U.S. and Norwegian ships, covers some 770 square miles (2,000 square kilometres) of sea, said Jean-Paul Troadec, chief of the BEA investigation agency. He said the approximately four-week search is the most expensive and biggest operation his agency has ever conducted and "one of the most complex undersea operations ever."

Troadec said the first search efforts after the June 1 crash, which killed 228 people, "were not fruitful." Since then, "the investigation has stalled," he said, without further information from the crash site, including from the black box flight recorders that would provide crucial information on what went wrong. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Comment

Shifting protocols of saying goodbye

Relating

Modern life is geographically scattered, computer mediated and subject to change without notice. When it's time to say goodbye, tradition can't always tell us how to say it.

On Christmas Day, a favourite aunt died. She'd been deprived by illness of her faculties years ago. We had already been forced to make our peace with losing this funny, lively woman. When it came, the final goodbye was more of a formality, and no funeral was held.

I understood the decision of my uncle, who had spent the last years caring for her, largely alone, when she could no longer do so herself. There was little left to be said.

Last month, I said goodbye to someone I'd never met. One of the posters on an Internet message board I frequent died young and suddenly, leaving people who had known him only from words on the screen in a distinctive blue font suddenly wrestling with a weird sort of grief.

The site itself is no encounter group. Its denizens pride themselves on a coarse, flame-happy humour and level of discourse about as low as found anywhere on the Net. Those who had given him the hardest time online, however, were among those most stunned by his death.

The acquaintance was virtual but the loss strangely real.

On Valentine's Day, I lost an old dog who was sort of mine. Courtesy of the jury-rigged terms of a family split, he spent his weekends with us, leaving the suburbs for a downtown apartment. (I wrote a eulogy for a friend's dog last summer in this column, and I promise not to make a habit of canine obits, but please bear with me.)

It's funny how these improvised arrangements over the years can enter the very warp and, uh, woof of one's life. New routines and rhythms emerge, and they soon feel like they've always been there. The apartment is too quiet now, and the leash lies on a chair, never again to promise a walk and elicit frantic jumps with its jingle.

There was no funeral, just sad practicalities. I wrapped him in a bedsheet and carried him to the car and the animal hospital, honoured to be his pallbearer.

The rituals may change, but goodbye never does.

Steve Collins offers his best guesses on relationships for Metro every two weeks.

Views

Teens and the F-word: What's next for feminism?

FourthWave

This past weekend, I led a workshop on online journalism as part of Shameless Magazine's Wire, a series that teaches high school girls the fundamentals of journalism. I learned what exactly it is teens do on the Internet (lots of Facebook, it turns out) and met some probable future feminists.

As an exercise, the participants created a group blog — and I found some glimpses into the minds of 16-year-olds: The sexist origins of Barbie (originally a sex toy for men, not a plaything for girls); why Valentine's Day sucks (who needs to be one-half of a lovesick pair of puppies?); and the addictive qualities of Facebook (a Petri dish for self-expression, as well as narcissism, jealousy and bragging).

Allison Martell, the organizer of Shameless Wire, told me that most of the girls never used the F-word, but noted that even if not in name, their opinions often overlapped with basic feminist concepts.

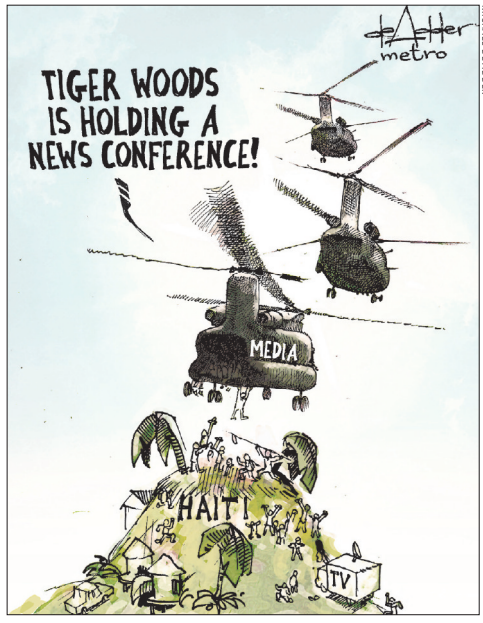
It got me thinking: These girls are already questioning how Barbies, relationships and our online identities define them — yet they didn't need to use feminist as a title.

Feminism can be tracked in waves: The first was suffrage; the second was liberation of the housewife; the third is the intersection of gender with race, sexuality and socioeconomics. The fourth wave doesn't yet exist, but already the principles of the former waves are infused within women's psyches — so what's next?

As blogger Jessica Valenti predicted in a New York Times interview, the next wave is online activism. And about women's roles, rights and responsibilities. The Internet is information democracy — blogs upon blogs upon Twitter feeds connect people talking about global, social, cultural and personal politics. Individualism and opinion, so celebrated these days, can refashion feminism (and other political activism) as an inclusive belief, not a rarified academic pursuit. If people don't like what they see, they can add to the conversation.

To the girls I met, the usual talking points about careers and working mothers are a given, not an option. They've moved into post-"feminism," as it's still defined, and it's time for feminists to as well.

Canice Leung is a former editor of Ryerson University feminist magazine McClung's, copy editor at Metro, ardent feminist and loudmouth.



MICHAEL DEADDER

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It is believed that some individuals have a genetic predisposition to a receding hairline *(most common in men)* or hair/follicle thinning over larger areas of scalp *(more common in women)*. These conditions result from hormonal changes caused by an enzyme in the dermal papilla called 5-alpha-reductase. This enzyme breaks down the hormone testosterone into dihydrotestosterone *(DHT)*.

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Specific compounds within the herbal extracts inhibit the 5-alpha-reductase *(and therefore reduce DHT)* to prevent or slow down the rate of hair loss. This process is the principle by which the prescription drugs such as Propecia *(finasteride)* work. However, BIO-FEN PLUS™ also contains additional compounds which remove excess cholesterol and testosterone – the building blocks of DHT.

BIO-FEN PLUS™ also contains vitamins to increase blood flow to the small capillaries that feed the hair roots, to deliver the active herbal compounds and remove waste. **Therefore, BIO-FEN PLUS™ provides a natural, safer alternative to expensive drugs, and/or expensive & painful hair transplants.** As with the prescription alternatives, results vary from person to person, and no one product will work for everyone.

How long must I use BIO-FEN PLUS™ *?*

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Anyone experiencing new growth will see it within four to six months. Once results become apparent, some users are able to reduce their BIO-FEN PLUS™ supplement dose to one capsule every second or every third day. Some clients will continue to take BIO-FEN PLUS™ daily. Once you stop completely, however, your hair growth pattern will slowly go back to the point where you started.

How safe is BIO-FEN PLUS™ *?*

The ingredient combination in BIO-FEN PLUS™ is generally safe for most adults. However, the following cautions are advised:

Folic acid: Consult a health care practitioner if you are uncertain whether or not you are taking adequate vitamin B12, as folate supplementation can mask a Vitamin B12 deficiency.

Vitamin B3: Consult a health care practitioner prior to use if you have impaired liver function.

Vitamin B6: Consult a health care practitioner prior to use if you are taking levodopa.

What is the quality of BIO-FEN PLUS™ *?*

BIO-FEN PLUS™ is manufactured in Canada according to a quality assurance program called Good Manufacturing Practices *(GMP)*. This ensures that the ingredients are tested for their level of quality, potency & purity, prior to production and again prior to sale.

See our website to locate your nearest Health Food Store or Pharmacy that offers BIO-FEN PLUS™ and other quality products from Hair Grow Technology. If you have any questions or comments about our products that target hair loss and support the growth of strong, healthy hair, please do not hesitate to contact us.

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D-calcium pantothenate *(Vitamin B5)*	10.40 mg
Niacinamide *(Vitamin B3)*	10.25 mg
Pyridoxine HCl *(Vitamin B6)*	2.00 mg
Riboflavin *(Vitamin B2)*	1.58 mg
Folic acid	0.095 mg
Biotin	400 mcg

Non-medicinal ingredients: inert microcrystalline cellulose and vegetable-based magnesium stearate in a veggie-based capsule.

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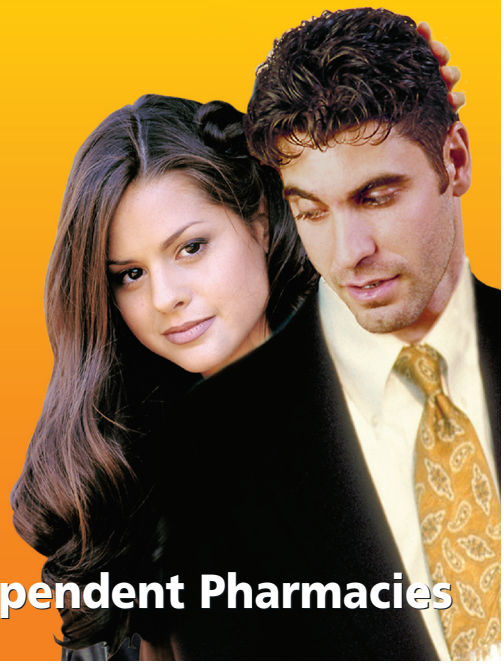

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Commission will investigate Kodak complaint

The U.S. International Trade Commission said yesterday it will consider whether to ban imports into the United States of Research In Motion's BlackBerry phones and Apple Inc.'s iPhones after it looks into Eastman Kodak's patent- infringement complaint. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Business

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EDITOR: FERMIN.DESOUZA@METRONEWS.CA

Business in brief

LOBLAW Canada's largest grocery chain says it's stepping up investment in its information technology and supply chain — part of a multi-year overhaul that continues to challenge Loblaw Companies. Loblaw executive chairman Galen G. Weston says investments in IT and the supply chain will reduce the company's operating income by $185 million, while overall capital spending will be stable at $1 billion.

WESTJET Despite the worst economic downturn in decades, WestJet Airlines Ltd. has eked out a 19th consecutive profitable quarter, though earnings and revenue were sharply lower than in the fourth quarter of 2008. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Women MBA grads lag

Hiring practices see more men employed

They pay the same tuition, study together and compete for the same grades.

But despite their accomplishments, women MBA graduates are lagging behind their male counterparts because of hiring practices at major corporations around the world.

In fact, according to a paper released today entitled Pipeline's Broken Promise, research group Catalyst says that women MBA graduates not only start at lower positions than men with an equivalent education, but they also earn about $4,600 less a year in starting positions. That early gap translates into women rising at slower rates and to lower positions throughout their careers, the study found.

"To find that women who are leaving the leading business schools in the world, that they lag at every stage of their career and salary and don't catch up to their male counterparts is really quite stunning," said Deborah Gillis, vice-president, North America, Catalyst.

The findings came from more than 4,100 alumni from 26 top business schools around the world who graduated from full-time MBA programs between 1996 and 2007 and were working full-time in companies and firms when the study was conducted. Roughly 25 per cent were women.

While 16 per cent of respondents were Canadian, the study did not show how Canada stacked up against the rest of the world. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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SCANLIFE
Wikipedia plans expansion after surging past its fundraising goals thanks to a huge donation from Google. Scan this code for the story.

Visits to Canada up in December

STATS Travel to Canada by foreign residents increased 0.9 per cent in December to two million trips, largely due to more overnight trips by U.S. residents.

Statistics Canada reports increases in all modes of travel by American residents — overnight plane travel was up 2.4 per cent, overnight car trips rose 0.9, and same-day car trips increased 0.2.

Residents of overseas countries made 343,000 trips to Canada in December, 0.2 per cent more than in November.

Most notably, trips by residents of China rose 10.3 per cent and those from residents of India were up 24.8. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Hospital News | THE GLOBE AND MAIL | monster | metro
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Rogers says Q4 profit up $310M

COMMUNICATIONS Rogers Communications Inc. is hiking its dividend and renewing a stock buyback program that will allow the Toronto-based company to cancel up to $1.5 billion worth of its publicly traded B shares in the coming year.

The annualized dividend paid by Rogers will rise to $1.28 per class A voting share and class B non-voting share, or 32 cents per quarter — up from the previous annualized rate of $1.16 per share.

The 10 per cent increase to the annual dividend rate was announced as Rogers reported a $310-million net profit in the fourth quarter of 2009. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Trump Fashionable faceoff

DIANE BONDAREFF/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Donald Trump and his wife Melania Knauss enter the tents in New York's Bryant Park yesterday. Celebrity real estate developer Trump and investor Carl Icahn are trading jabs in court documents ahead of a faceoff in bankruptcy court next week that could determine the fate of Trump's namesake Atlantic City hotel-casinos.

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INFORMATION FEATURE

Online brokers can help

An online broker should be a helpful partner to investors.

RAFAEL BRUSILOW
for Metro Canada

Investing online doesn't mean you should be investing alone, so make sure your online broker gives you the tools and support you will need to succeed.

Jason Storsley, president and CEO of RBC Direct Investing, says while online brokers are often cheaper to use than traditional brokers, they should still offer a robust support system to help you invest confidently and easily. Consumers still deserve the best possible level of service from their broker, regardless of whether they proceed online.

"When you look to an online broker, you want to know how they are going to add ease and confidence to your investment process. We've structured our website to make sure it's easy to understand and use, and to find those topics and areas you're looking for," Storsley said.

While online investors obviously want to take command of their investment decisions, a good online broker needs to do much more than just give you a pat on the back and send you into the fire.

Online brokers have to provide the right tools and resources to ensure you can make decisions that fit your needs. Your online broker shouldn't just be a gatekeeper for your online investing journey, but a helpful partner as well — a relationship Storsley says RBC Direct Investing treats as fundamental to good investing.

"We see investing really as a partnership between our investors and ourselves. While self-directed investors are making their own decisions, they're never really left completely on their own — we educate them to make the right decisions for themselves," Storsley said.

For people who like direct instruction, a wealth of helpful "Show-Me" videos can be accessed at the RBC Direct Investing site that explain all parts of the investment process with clear visuals and voice-over narrations. For investors wanting more information about specific types of investments, a series of learning modules in RBC's Guidance and Planning section let you create a personalized learning plan tailored to your investing needs.

"We see investing really as a partnership between our investors and ourselves. While self-directed investors are making their own decisions, they're never really left completely on their own." Jason Storsley

If you like to tinker with different investment strategies or test out new ones, an RBC Direct Investing Practice Account can be the best way to play the market in creative ways without risking any real money. Any RBC Direct Investing or Online Banking client can open a Practice Account and use all the same tools that a real money account would use, but with pretend money instead. It's a powerful way to gain experience trying out things you would never consider otherwise because of the risk involved, or your own lack of experience.

One of the key things a good online broker needs to do is to give you the confidence to take control of your investment decision process and RBC offers some great tools to make that happen.

RBC's innovative Asset Mix Calculator takes stock of your financial goals and personal risk tolerance to suggest a professionally vetted asset mix already diversified to your needs.

Professionally designed Model Portfolios take the guesswork out of mutual funds and exchange-traded funds by offering an easy way to build or further diversify your portfolio with fund mixes that have been carefully picked by RBC experts to offer strong investment potential.

For self-directed investors who want to delve even deeper into their own investment process, RBC offers a wealth of advanced and innovative Screeners let you sift quickly through thousands of potential stocks and funds down to a short list based on specific criteria you've picked. It's like having the power to pick only the cream of the crop from dozens of different harvests, all of them chosen by you.

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On the web

- For more on RBC Direct Investing, log on to rbcdirectinvesting.com.

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PostGame

WATCH YESTERDAY'S POST GAME VIDEO!
Featuring replays, interviews and sports commentary at **metronews.ca/Sports**

Sports

Stallworth catches on with Ravens

The Baltimore Ravens say they have signed wide receiver Donte' Stallworth, left, to a one-year contract. Stallworth was recently released by the Cleveland Browns after being reinstated by the NFL following a one-year suspension. He was suspended for violating the league's personal-conduct policy for a DUI vehicular manslaughter charge. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

EDITOR: DON.MCHOULL@METRONEWS.CA

Reunited and it feels so good: Argonauts acquire Copeland

CFL Jim Barker and Jeremaine Copeland are together again.

The Toronto Argonauts acquired slotback Copeland from the Calgary Stampeders yesterday for receiver P.K. Sam. The move reunited Barker and Copeland for the fourth time, and the good news for Argos fans is the two were part of championship-winning squads all three previous times together (2001 Los Angeles, XFL; 2002 Grey Cup, Montreal Alouettes; 2008 Grey Cup, Calgary Stampeders).

"It's always good to reunite with Coach B," Copeland said via telephone from Calgary. "Three times we've been together we've created championship teams and I don't see why anything can change now going out to Toronto, so I'm looking forward to the change."

The Argos hired Barker as their head coach earlier this month, giving him the task of rebuilding a franchise that posted a CFL-worst 3-15 record last year.

Barker, who came to Toronto after five seasons in Calgary's front office, said adding a veteran of Copeland's stature will make the Argos better.

"I wouldn't have brought him here if I didn't think he could help deliver a championship," said Barker. "That's what we're here to do."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Busy day

- Also yesterday the Argos learned that special teams ace Dominique Dorsey had signed as a free agent with Saskatchewan, while starting defensive backs Will Poole and Jason Shivers both joined arch-rival Hamilton. The Argos also parted ways with assistant GM Greg Mohns and Canadian scouting co-ordinator Miles Gorrell.

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JON KOPALOFF/GETTY IMAGES

Canadian Georges St. Pierre, top, battles Thiago Alves during their welterweight title bout at UFC 100 July 11, 2009, in Las Vegas, Nevada.

MMA gets KO'd

Mixed martial arts fans gave Dalton McGuinty a virtual smack down yesterday after the Ontario premier said he's not ready to allow wildly popular Ultimate Fighting Championship events nor similar fights to be held in the province.

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SCANLIFE
The main bout in UFC's Australian debut should be an intriguing contrast in styles of the two top heavyweights. Scan this code for the story.

Despite the likelihood such matches would generate much-needed tax revenue for the cash-strapped province and jobs, McGuinty said it's "just not a priority."

"We have higher priorities when it comes to developing those jobs and strengthening the economy," said McGuinty, who has suggested in the past he was open to having mixed martial arts fights in Ontario.

"We have other things on the go right now, and we'll stay focused on those, whether that's our tax reforms, stimulating the economy through investments in infrastructure, getting our children better opportunities at the outset."

Despite a strong fan base in Ontario, mixed martial arts fighting — or MMA — has long been banned because it's considered to be prize fighting — making it illegal under the federal Criminal Code.

It can, however, be licensed by provincial and municipal athletics commissions, something that has happened in various provinces and U.S. states.

MMA is one of the world's fastest-growing spectator sports and the UFC, the sport's top promoter, has claimed an event in Toronto could generate $4 million in tax revenue.

UFC president Dana White has called Canada the "mecca" of his sport, citing healthy ticket sales to Canadians for shows around North America and elsewhere.

The backlash online was fierce, with MMA enthusiasts trashing McGuinty for failing to support the sport.

"What is McGuinty talking about — not a priority? It's not like hosting a UFC event is some project the provincial government is going to organize, promote, host, etc.," said one posting on TSN.ca.

"All that's being asked is you pass one law so that it's not ILLEGAL."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Sports in brief

DRUNK DRIVING Injured Edmonton Oilers goalie Nikolai Khabibulin has been arrested in Arizona and charged with drunk driving. Police in Scottsdale say they stopped a black Ferrari for speeding Feb. 8. The officer who made the stop noticed a smell of alcohol on the driver's breath and made the arrest after a sobriety test.

NBA The agent for Amare Stoudemire says he expects the all-star forward to be traded by today's 3 p.m. ET deadline, with Cleveland and Miami the most likely destinations. Happy Walters told The Associated Press that it would make no sense for the Phoenix Suns not to trade Stoudemire, only to see him walk away as a free agent at the end of the season.

SOCCER Porto took advantage of two goalkeeping blunders to beat Arsenal 2-1 in the Champions League yesterday. Bayern Munich made it 13 victories in a row in all competitions by beating Fiorentina 2-1 in Munich.

NFL The Cleveland Browns have released running back Jamal Lewis. Lewis' season ended Dec. 2 when he was placed on injured reserve with post-concussion symptoms.

FOOTBALL The Arena Football League, reborn under new leadership after folding last year, is already looking to add teams in Philadelphia, Southern California, Denver and Pittsburgh.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

SCOREBOARD

NBA

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS
Memphis 109 TORONTO 102 (OT)
San Antonio 90 Indiana 87
Orlando 116 Detroit 91
Washington 108 Minnesota 99
Miami at New Jersey
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Lincecum, Giants finalize deal

Tim Lincecum and the San Francisco Giants have finalized their $23-million US, two-year contract that avoided salary arbitration. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CHRIS YOUNG/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Toronto Raptor Chris Bosh scrambles with Memphis Grizzlies Mike Conley for a loose ball during first-half action at the Air Canada Centre last night.

Raps' home win streak ends

Rudy Gay scored 29 points, including eight in overtime, as the Memphis Grizzlies ended the Toronto Raptors' eight-game home winning streak with a 109-102 victory last night.

Chris Bosh scored 32 points for the Raptors, who came back from 11 down in the third quarter to take the lead late before the Grizzlies forced overtime in the dying seconds of the fourth.

The Raptors (29-24), trying to equal a franchise-best for consecutive home victories in a season, also got 14 points from Andrea Bargnani and 12 from Jose Calderon.

Zach Randolph added 24 and O.J. Mayo 22 for Memphis (27-26) before 16,829 at Air Canada Centre.

The Raptors led 93-92 with 1:40 to play after Mike Conley's driving layup for Memphis.

Bargnani's hook shot with 1:16 left and Bosh's 15-foot jumper with 37.9 seconds left made the score 97-92.

But Mayo's three-pointer off an inbound made it 97-95 and Randolph, playing with five fouls, made a layup off a fast break with 1.9 seconds left to tie the game 97-97.

Bosh missed a shot at the buzzer to send the game to overtime and Gay took over from there.

His fadeaway jumper with 27.9 seconds left in OT made it 107-102.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

McGwire returns to baseball, offers fresh apology

CARDINALS Mark McGwire's first day on the job began with a wrong turn into the media room instead of the spring training clubhouse. It ended with another apology for steroid use.

The St. Louis Cardinals' new batting coach spent time in the batting cage with hitters, sat in on a lengthy staff meeting and then answered questions from reporters for more than 15 minutes. He left more than six hours later yesterday, but not before signing several autographs.

The 46-year-old McGwire seemed at ease in his first extended media availability since admitting a month ago that he used steroids and human growth hormone during his remarkable home run power surge in the 1990s. Echoing remarks he made in January, several times he asked for forgiveness as he seeks to rehabilitate a tarnished image.

"It's something I regret," McGwire said. "I can't say I'm sorry enough to everybody in baseball and across America, and whoever watches this great game.

"I think people understand how truly sorry I was for what I did."

McGwire refused to back off his assertion, much criticized, that steroids allowed him to recover from injuries and stay on the field, but didn't help him break Roger Maris' single season home run record in 1998. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Selanne ties scoring record

Teemu Selanne has tied the all-time scoring record in the Olympic Games. The Finnish forward assisted on Olli Jokinen's first-period goal against Belarus yesterday, giving him 36 points. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Vancouver Games

EDITOR: DON.MCHOULL@METRONEWS.CA

St-Gelais races her way to silver

Short-track team just misses winning two medals

Canada's powerhouse short-track speedskating team is on the board at the Winter Olympics.

Marianne St-Gelais of St-Felicien, Que., raced to a silver medal in the women's 500 metres yesterday at Pacific Coliseum.

Chinese star Wang Meng cruised to gold in 43.048 seconds.

St-Gelais finished in 43.707 while Arianna Fontana of Italy took the bronze in 43.804.

"I just felt the greatest emotion of my life," said Charles Hamelin, St-Gelais' boyfriend and the top medal contender on the Canadian team.

"I don't think I could have felt better if it was me winning the medal."

Hamelin was in the back, surrounded by journalists, watching the race on TV when she crossed the finish line.

Canada missed a chance at two medals after Jessica Gregg of Edmonton finished fourth in 44.204.

Canada's top sprinter, Kalyna Roberge of St-Etienne-de-Lauzon, Que., failed to make it to the medal race. She was fourth in the event four years ago at the Turin Games.

Roberge and St-Gelais had a long embrace after the race.

Canada failed to make the podium on the first day of the Olympic short-track competition. The team is aiming for six medals at the Games.

In the men's 1,000-metre elimination heats, brothers Charles and Francois Hamelin advanced to the quarter-finals.

Charles Hamelin briefly held the Olympic record yesterday, but it was beaten a few heats later by South Korea's Sung Si-Bak.

Nicolas Bean of Ottawa also advanced for the Italian team. He passed Travis Jayner of Riverview, N.B., who is skating for the United States, in the final strides of the heat.

Canada also advanced to the final in the 5,000-metre men's relay.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

GET THE LATEST MEDAL COUNT! metronews.ca

What to watch today

TV Highlights

Noon: Men's curling
Canada vs. Sweden (Sportsnet).
1:20 p.m.: Biathlon
Women's 15 km individual gold medal (TSN).
3 p.m.: Men's hockey
U.S. vs. Norway (Sportsnet).
3:30 p.m.: Alpine skiing
Women's super combined slalom gold medal (TSN).
4 p.m.: Speedskating
Women's long track 1,000 m gold medal (CTV).
4:20 p.m.: Biathlon
Men's 20 km individual gold medal (OLN).
5 p.m.: Women's curling
Canada vs. Germany (TSN).
5:30 p.m.: Women's hockey
U.S. vs. Finland (Sportsnet).
7:30 p.m.: Men's hockey
Men's hockey Switzerland vs. Canada (CTV).
8 p.m.: Figure skating
Men's free skate gold medal (TSN).
9 p.m.: Snowboarding
Women's halfpipe gold medal (Sportsnet).
10 p.m.: Men's curling
Canada vs. France (Sportsnet).
Midnight: Men's curling
9 p.m. PT (midnight ET): Men's hockey Slovakia vs. Russia (TSN).

VANCOUVER GAMES

Medal Count

NATION				TOTAL
U.S.	4	3	5	12
Germany	3	4	3	10
France	2	1	4	7
Canada	2	3	1	6
South Korea	3	2	0	5
Austria	1	2	2	5
Norway	1	2	2	5
Switzerland	3	0	1	4
China	2	1	1	4
Italy	0	1	3	4
Russia	1	1	1	3
Sweden	2	0	0	2
Slovakia	1	1	0	2
Czech Republic	1	0	1	2
Poland	0	2	0	2
Japan	0	1	1	2

On the web

- Up-to-date medal standings and results
- Metro-Blenz News Squad on-the-ground blog

Visit metronews.ca for more Games coverage.

Chan wakes up to face daunting challenge

Patrick Chan

FIGURE SKATING Patrick Chan went back to his room Tuesday night, watched some TV and had no trouble falling asleep.

Yesterday morning was like waking up to lousy weather. Reality had rolled in like dark clouds.

"I just kind of woke up this morning in a crappy mood," said the 19-year-old from Toronto.

Chan, who arrived in Vancouver lugging the heavy expectations as one of Canada's top medal contenders in figure skating, finds himself having to claw back from a disappointing seventh-place finish in Tuesday's short program. He needs the skate of his life today to have any shot at the podium.

He was back on the practice ice at Trout Lake on Wednesday morning, hoping to shake off the effects of his disheartening short program that had him numb with disbelief only a few hours earlier.

Chan takes comfort in Jeffrey Buttle's performance at the 2006 Olympics in Italy — in sixth place after stumbling through his short program, the Canadian battled back to win a bronze medal.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Women's downhill **Gold for Vonn**

JACQUES BOISSINOT/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Gold medallist Lindsey Vonn, right, and silver medallist Julia Mancuso, of the USA, wave their country's flag yesterday as they celebrate after the women's downhill. The race saw several spectacular crashes, including one that resulted in Swedish standout Anja Paerson being taken to hospital. Vonn was hurt Feb. 2 during pre-Olympic practice in Austria and had hardly skied over the past two weeks. Still, as the two-time defending overall World Cup champion, she entered as an overwhelming favourite.

Long-track speedskater Davis defends 1,000-metre gold

American Shani Davis defended his Olympic title in the men's 1,000-metre long-track speedskating competition, while Canadian Denny Morrison finished a disappointing 13th yesterday.

The world record holder in the event, Davis finished first in one minute 8.94 seconds.

South Korea's Mo Tae-Bum, who won gold earlier this week in the 500 metres, was second in 1:09.12. American Chad Hedrick took the bronze in 1:09.32

Morrison, from Fort St. John, B.C., finished 13th in 1:10.30, while veteran teammate Jeremy Wotherspoon was 14th in his final Olympic race with a time of 1:10.35.

This was expected to be the first of three medals for Morrison at the Vancouver Games and he will need to get his head straight for the next event, the 1,500 Saturday.

"It'll linger for about 10 minutes," he said.

"I'll get back to the change room, maybe throw around some things. But I have to use it for the 1,500, obviously I want to get on the podium there."

Other Canadian competitors also fared poorly. Francois-Olivier Roberge of St-Nicolas, Que., was 20th while Kyle Parrott of Minnedosa, Man., was 24th.

Comedian Stephen Colbert, who has made the U.S. team his pet project, watched from the stands at the Richmond Olympic Oval just south of Vancouver.

He threw his hands in the air in celebration as Davis won gold.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Hockey game gets big ratings
Team Canada's 8-0 rout over Norway at the Vancouver Olympics on Tuesday netted an average audience of 6.2 million Canadians, says CTV. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Men's hockey **Eyes on the puck**

RYAN REMIORZ/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Canada's Jarome Iginla, left, Rick Nash and Sidney Crosby watch a shootout yesterday during the men's ice hockey team practice at the 2010 Vancouver Winter Olympic Games. Canada will take on Switzerland today.

Add another blowout to Canada's list

KRISTEN THOMPSON
Metro Canada

Another hockey game, another trouncing.

Canada's women's team outshot, out-skated and outplayed Sweden to a 13–1 victory yesterday, in what was supposed to be a more evenly-matched game than its blowouts over Switzerland and Slovakia.

Both teams were undefeated in the tournament leading up to the game.

"(Canada was) completely better in all moments of the game." Peter Elander, Sweden head coach

But the Canadians dominated yesterday's game early on, securing a comfortable 5-0 lead in the first period and scoring seven more goals by the end of the second.

Swedish goalie Kim Martin could do little with the endless barrage of shots and was pulled halfway through the second.

The third period was more evenly played, with both teams getting nine shots on net and scoring a goal apiece. Sweden's one goal came from Katarina Timglas on a power play.

But by then, the damage was done.

"(Canada) skated faster, passed better and had better shooting," said Peter Elander, head coach of Team Sweden. "They were completely better in all moments of the game. We're not satisfied with our game at all."

Canadian head coach Melody Davidson said she's worried that blowouts like this may lead the IOC to conclude there isn't a deep enough talent pool to warrant the inclusion of women's hockey in future Games.

"We have a job to do here and we work hard all year to put together a team that can do that job," Davidson said. "(But) we're still conflicted, there's no two ways about it."

The question now isn't whether Canada will medal, but how it will do against the United States, its only legitimate rival and a team looking to reclaim the gold it won in 1998. The gold medal game is set for Feb. 25.

Swiss looking for repeat of '06 against Canada

HOCKEY It was a moment Luca Sbisa will never forget.

Sitting at home in Switzerland four years ago, the teenager could hardly believe his eyes while watching the national team pull off a 2-0 upset victory over Team Canada at the Turin Games. Hockey players throughout the country swelled with pride.

"That's the biggest win in Swiss hockey history," said Sbisa. "A couple days before that they won against the Czech Republic so that was already huge. Everyone was like, 'OK, they're already good, they're not getting criticized.' Then they beat the Canadians ... They got celebrated back home like heroes.

Having just turned 20, Sbisa is the youngest men's hockey player competing at the Vancouver Games. He's part of the next wave of Swiss players who hope to carry their country's flag in North America. They're following in the footsteps of defenceman Mark Streit — the Swiss captain in Vancouver — and goaltenders David Aebischer, Martin Gerber and Jonas Hiller.

Heading into today's game against Team Canada (CTV, 7:30 p.m. ET), the Swiss are hoping for a repeat of 2006. "That's the same way we want to play here — we just want to rattle the opponents by not giving them much room and space," said Sbisa. "I think a lot of teams will underestimate us. I think that's our advantage, too."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Angel of Death just one of many designs

HELMETS Three years ago, skeleton slider Patrick Shannon skidded too low into a whipsaw curve in Koenigssee, Germany, swooped up the track at maximum warp, and violently T-boned the ice wall.

He cracked his helmet, broke his jaw, and smashed his hip. There were ice burns all over his body and his face needed stitches.

He cheated death that day — so naturally he painted it on his helmet.

The result is a leering white skull highlighted in metallic green (to remind him of the green of Ireland) on a jet-black background.

His helmet is just one of many designs painted, airbrushed or taped on the lids of the world's skeleton sliders, who begin their quest for Olympic gold today with the first two of four heats on the Whistler Sliding Centre track.

Shannon said after the crash he was sitting at home wondering what to paint on the crown of his new helmet.

"I had a poster with the Grim Reaper as a skeleton figure, holding a scythe. So I thought, 'Angel of Death. Fantastic. I have to do it.'"

Calgary slider Jeff Pain, now in his third and final Olympic Games, was the painting trailblazer for Canada.

He saw American skeleton racer Jim Shea Jr., the gold medal winner at Salt Lake in 2002, with the American eagle on his helmet. "I saw that and thought it was kind of a cool idea. I added the Canadian humour to it and created the Raging Beaver."

Pain will again use a slightly altered beaver helmet during these Games.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

JEFF MCINTOSH/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Canada's Jeff Pain starts his run earlier this week during men's skeleton training at the Whistler Sliding Centre at the 2010 Vancouver Olympic Winter Games in Whistler.

Canada's Bernard beats Japan to move to 2-0

CURLING The flair for the dramatic that Cheryl Bernard showed at the Canadian Olympic curling trials in Edmonton is back on display at the Winter Games in Vancouver.

Bernard notched her second consecutive win to start the women's Olympic curling tournament yesterday with a 7-6 decision over Japan's Moe Meguro.

The Calgary skip trailed 6-5 heading into the 10th end, but took out a Japanese rock with her hammer, scoring two and sending more than 5,000 boisterous fans into a frenzy.

Bernard battled back from an earlier 3-0 deficit.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

On the web
Visit metronews.ca for complete curling results.

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Show times and dates

The 2010 Canadian International Auto Show continues at the Metro Toronto Convention Centre till Sunday. Daily hours are from 10:30 a.m. to 10 p.m. and final day from 10:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. Visit autoshow.ca for more information. METRO NEWS SERVICES

2010 Auto Show

EDITOR: KUMAR.SAHA@METRONEWS.CA

House of hopes

Dealers' group drives McDonald project

KUMAR SAHA
Metro Canada

There are plenty of cool exhibits at the ongoing 2010 Canadian International Auto Show in Toronto, but the one that will probably warm your heart the most doesn't involve hot cars.

Rather, it's a miniature, model complex on display by the entrance of the Metro Toronto Convention Centre's North Building.

The proposed facility promises to be a dream come true for Ronald McDonald House Toronto (RMHT), an organization that provides affordable accommodation for families that need to stay in the city while their seriously ill children are receiving medical treatment.

On the web

- Metro writers Jil McIntosh and Michael Goetz give you the lowdown on the Toronto auto show. Visit metronews.ca/blogs to read their rants and raves.

The downtown site will have 96 bedrooms and serve 80 families, up from the maximum of 28 families the current Gerrard Street location is able to house.

The environmentally sustainable building will also offer a private school and child-focused programming.

Many organizations, including the Government of Canada, have shifted their support into top gear for the estimated $34 million project. So have the people behind the Toronto auto show — the Toronto Automobile Dealers Association (TADA).

TADA has committed $2 million to the building, and one of the larger wings of the facility will be named the TADA Gift of Life, says Judy MacGowan, director of development, RMHT.

"We are extremely grateful to TADA whose generosity will make a huge difference for the families who will so desperately need the new Ronald McDonald House Toronto," MacGowan said in an email to Metro.

TADA and its 340-plus member dealerships have been actively involved in helping various communities and organizations since its inception in 1908. When it hit the 100th anniversary mark two years back, TADA wanted to contribute to something that would have a broad resonance, says Mike Karim, president of the Toronto Automobile Dealers Foundation — the charitable wing of the consortium.

"It was tough to decide on a charity since our members are spread all over the GTA. We didn't want to concentrate on one particular area. (RMHT) was a worthy choice," Karim said.

For more information about RMHT and to help out with the planned House, visit rmhtoronto.org and whathealingfeelslike.com.

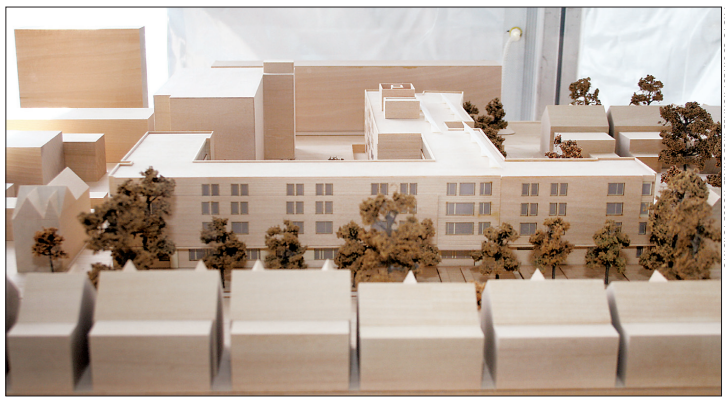

PHOTO COURTESY RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE TORONTO

A model of the proposed new Ronald McDonald House is on display at the Toronto auto show.

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Metro Homes

What's in a name?

David Gibson helped to establish the "Willow Dale" post office in 1851, named after the many willow trees that once graced this district. His house, the Gibson House, still stands at 5172 Yonge St. and is now a historic museum.

WIKIPEDIA.ORG

EDITOR: DOUGLAS.DUNLOP@METRONEWS.CA

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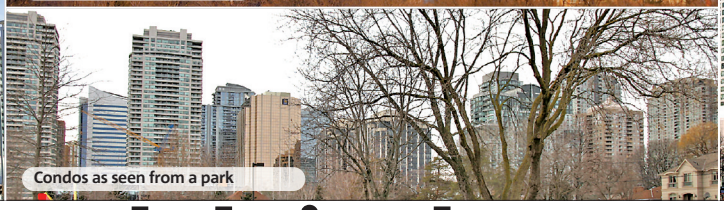
Minto Condo

Condos on the horizon


Condos as seen from a park

Condos at Yonge

RAFAEL BRUSILOW/FOR METRO CANADA

Willowdale's skyscraping reach

Willowdale
Spaces & Places

RAFAEL BRUSILOW
for Metro Canada

Revving with energy and carrying a welcoming soul, Willowdale draws young and old alike.

As one of Toronto's fastest-growing communities, this north Toronto neighbourhood is a perfect example of how different people, different lives and different ideologies can all come together successfully.

An ethnically diverse community, Willowdale has more than half of its residents hailing from places outside of Canada with Chinese, Korean and Persian being the three most common non-English languages spoken.

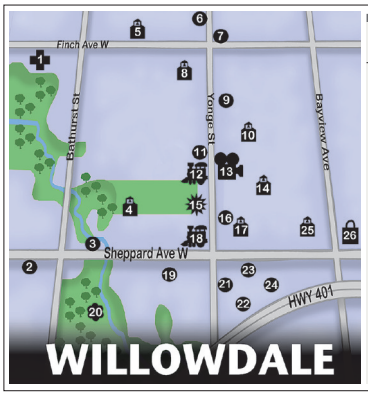
Families and other homeowners thrive on well-maintained residential streets in the east and west, while young professionals and new Canadians flock to the core of high-rises and businesses that line the edges of Yonge Street. Condominium development has been lightning-fast in the area in the past decade and demand among buyers has stayed high even through the recent recession.

Bart Gojski, a realtor with RE/MAX Hallmark, estimates roughly 36 new high-rise condos have gone up near the Yonge and Sheppard area in the last 10 years, primarily because the area provides an ideal mix of price, location and lifestyle.

"There's a lot of young professionals and first-time buyers buying condos there because you can get a lot more for your money in the Willowdale area than you could get downtown or at Yonge and Eglinton. Economically it makes sense for a lot of people," Gojski said.

The Lowdown

- **AVERAGE REAL ESTATE VALUE:** $455,612; **RENT:** $1,083
- **SCHOOLS:** Earl Haig SS (100 Princess Ave.), McKee Public School (35 Church Ave.), St. Cyril Catholic (18 Kempford Blvd.), St. Antoine Daniel Catholic (160 Finch Ave.), St. Edward Catholic (21 Eddfield Ave.), Cardinal Carter Academy for the Arts (36 Greenfield Ave.), St. Gabriel's YMCA Child Care (396 Spring Garden Rd.)
- **CONDO DEVELOPMENTS:** See map at right
- **GETTING AROUND:** Multiple bus lines on Yonge, Bathurst, Bayview, Finch and Steeles roads, subway stations at Sheppard-Yonge, Bayview, Bessarion, North York Centre and Finch. Access to Hwy 401 via Yonge.



Legend

- 1: North York Branson Hospital
- 2: Portrait Condos, Bathurst and Sheppard, Elm Development
- 3: Regency on the Ravine, 500 Sheppard, CB Holdings.
- 4: St. Edward, 21 Eddfield Ave.
- 5: St. Antoine Daniel, 160 Finch Ave.
- 6: The Palm, Yonge and Finch, Castle Royale
- 7: Luxe Condominiums Phase 2, Yonge and Sheppard, Monarch
- 8: St. Cyril, 18 Kempford Blvd.
- 9: Bravo Condos @ Yonge, Yonge and Norton, Baywood Homes
- 10: McKee Public School, 35 Church Ave.
- 11: Gibson Square, Yonge and Park Home, Menkes Developments
- 12: North York Centre Station
- 13: Empress Walk cinemas
- 14: Earli Haig Secondary School, 100 Princess Ave
- 15: Mel Lastman Square
- 16: The Pearl, Yonge and Spring Garden, Conservatory Group
- 17: Cardinal Carter Academy, 36 Greenfield Ave.
- 18: Sheppard-Yonge Station
- 19: Emerald Park, Yonge and Sheppard, Bazis International
- 20: Earl Bales Park
- 21: Hullmark, Yonge and Sheppard, Tridel
- 22: Savvy Condos @ Cosmo, Yonge and Sheppard, Minto Urban Corporation
- 23: Spring@Minto Gardens 1 & 2, Yonge and Sheppard. Minto Urban Corporation
- 24: Avonshire, Yonge and Avondale, Tridel
- 25: St. Gabriel, 396 Spring Garden Rd.
- 26: The Bayview Manor/NY Tower, Bayview and Sheppard, The Daniels Corporation

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Monarch

Condo crazy?
Of the 117 homes sold in Willowdale this January, 88 were condominiums and the average selling price of all properties in the same time period was at 101 per cent of asking price. **BART GOJSKI, REALTOR WITH RE/MAX HALLMARK**

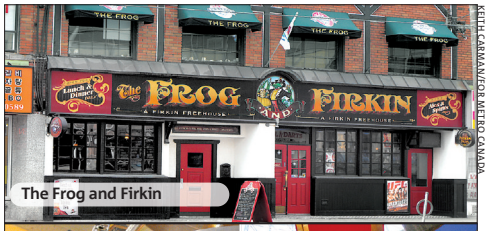
Haven for culinary delights

KEITH CARMAN
for Metro Canada

Thriving off its main artery Yonge Street, Willowdale is unjustly overlooked by outsiders as little more than another GTA bedroom community. With a modicum of exploration however, even non-natives can tap into one of the city's more enjoyable, distinctive and culturally wealthy niches.

Many locals rightfully pride Willowdale as a haven for culinary delights. The Iranian Plaza's seemingly endless vendors offer an array of ethnic dishes including felafel and kebabs — with Bibi's pistachio cookies furnishing a decadent cap — while residents aching to enjoy a savoury meal without slaving in the kitchen pop into Khorak Supermarket for delectable Indian take-out from its indelibly busy counter.

Trying to decide on only one Korean stew at Lee Nam Jang is the most difficult task of a tasty, affordable luncheon but those set on fine dining note that renowned names Oliver & Bonacini are moments away at Bayview Shopping Centre. Not to be outdone, The Sheppard Centre's two levels of everything from music and clothing to food, health and beauty items ensure virtual one-stop shopping for everyone. Musicians, treat yourself to a perusal of Soul Drums' eclectic supply of percussives for true rhythmic revelry.



KEITH CARMAN/FOR METRO CANADA

As for festivity, Willowdale's entertainment/leisure activities seem boundless. The Toronto Centre For The Arts hosts a range of theatre performances while next door, Mel Lastman Square schedules year-round outdoor events. Northward, the Gibson House Museum is packed with Upper Canadian Rebellion history and to the East, Don Park offers a wealth of greenery to explore with family of all species.

Enjoyable as one of few districts where an evening out can be subtle, Willowdale provides both classic and unique variations on after-hours diversion. A century ale house that has harboured a hotel and illicit gambling, The Miller Tavern reveals more of Toronto's great past. Refurbished, it now features a seafood restaurant and extensive outdoor patio.

Elsewhere, the Frog And Firkin delivers a traditional British pub setting or gather some chums for fun at Twister Karaoke. Private rooms and a catalogue of over 300,000 songs in multiple languages ensure your Beyoncé impersonation stays where it probably belongs: Amongst friends.

RAFAEL BRUSILOW/FOR METRO CANADA

Willowdale is home to the Toronto Centre for the Arts.

What do you like about Willowdale? -compiled by Rafael Brusilow

Andre Maharaj
age 20, works in the area
A: "It's very friendly here and very upscale. I like Sushi One a lot."

Hillar Agur
age 29, lives in the area
A: "I like that everything is in walking distance and I love the food court at North York Centre."

Ryan
(no surname given) age 21, lives in the area
A: "I like that compared to the suburbs it has a nice downtown feel. Spring Garden Avenue has a lot of different restaurants on it."

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More beautiful model suites online
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From disorder comes great design

Suite Talk

RAFAEL BRUSILOW
for Metro Canada

In interior design, there is such a thing as too pretty, and sometimes the best kind of order comes from disorder.

At King Country Estates in Nobleton, the Muskoka model suite — one of six vastly differing model homes outfitted by the site's three builders — shows off just how compelling a little disorder can be.

Designer Mike Niven and his team took inspiration from differing textures, mismatched woods and competing — though complementary — colours to conspicuously avoid the detached feel of modern designs. "It's as unmatched as we could make it and that's totally on purpose. It's a mish-mash so nothing is really out of whack. I think it works because the colours are all of the same value — an olive green is the same value as a burnt red and everything is on the warm side," Niven said.

In the kitchen, unusual choices abound with a chandelier made from wine bottles, different styles of furniture sharing the space and deliberately modern touches melding with obvious country sensibilities.

The effect is striking, particularly because while most designs call for furniture and accessories that are brand new, Niven's team instead beat up pieces of furniture to give them a lived-in look: The dining table was smacked around to give it dents and chips and the lacquered, modern dining chairs were actually scraped down to look used. It's all a part of creating a feel of a well-loved space with plenty of character and no pretension.

"We wanted to give everything that eclectic, used sensibility. Everything feels like you can just plop into it and it's the type of house where the kids could run amok and they wouldn't wreck anything, yet it still feels sophisticated enough to entertain in," Niven said.

The effect is carried to the rest of the house with big, overstuffed furniture in the family room and a similar mix of textures and accessories in the master bedroom of the 3,438 sq. ft model home.

The lowdown

- King Country Estates
- By Aspen Ridge Homes, CountryWide Homes and Rosehaven Homes
- Website: kingcountry.ca
- Available now
- Sizes & pricing: Homes on 50', 56', 63' and 79' lots starting from $680,000s

Seen here are some shots of King Country Estates' model suite.

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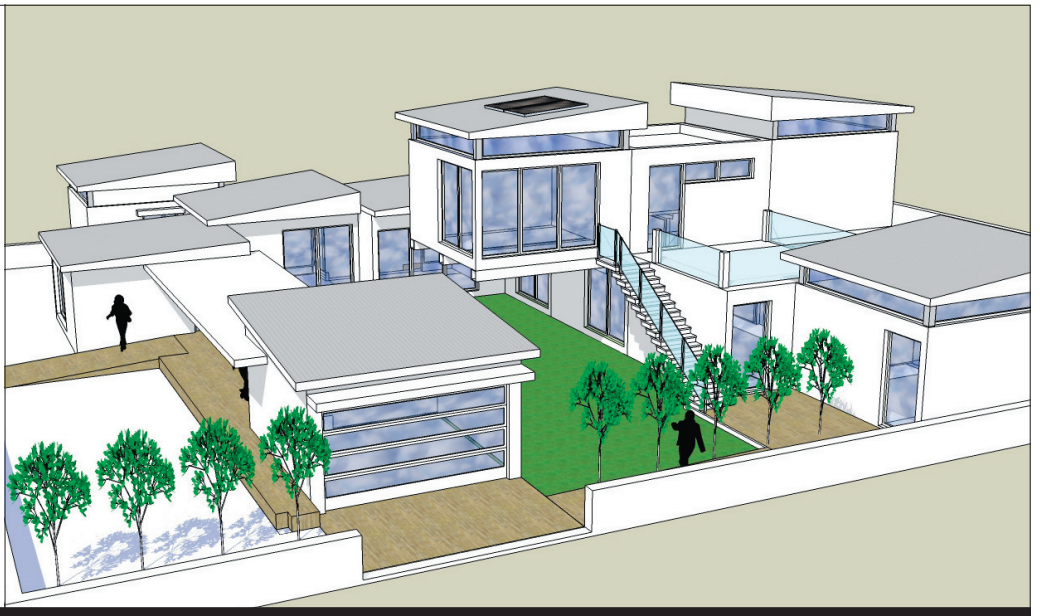

STARTS TOMORROW!

Eurodale Dream Home presented by Cityline + Toronto Star

No need to pinch yourself, it's real! Tour the Eurodale Dream Home and see the best in simple, smart, sustainable home design techniques come together with luxe interiors showcasing the latest décor trends.

Built by **Brendan Charters and Jim Cunningham,** designed by architect **Richard Librach** and featuring interiors by *CityLine* experts **Janette Ewen, Karen Sealy, Sharon Grech** and **Ramsin Khachi.**

Whether you are considering moving up, downsizing, or building green, the **Eurodale Dream Home** will inspire you to think about the way you live in a whole new way. This year's theme of modular living will show you how to live in building blocks that can be moved, re-used and easily expanded to accommodate your needs.

CITYLINE DESIGN TEAM

RAMSIN KHATCHI
Kitchen, Garage, Family Room, Mudroom, Powder Room

KAREN SEALY
Master Suite, Ensuite, Closet

JANETTE EWEN
Entrance, Dining Room

SHARON GRECH
Children's Bedroom, Playroom, Laundry Room

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Get ready for one 'cool' Dream Home this year

RooftopSurfing

Stephen Dupuis

metronews.ca/rooftopsurfing

The National Home Show opens tomorrow and having had the privilege of a behind-the-scenes tour of this year's Dream Home, I am certain that show-goers are going to be absolutely wowed. What I'm less certain of is whether it will be the home design itself or the interior design that will evoke the most reaction — both are provocative, both are edgy, both are, in a word, "cool!"

Maybe it's the fact that the home was built by a company call Eurodale; because anything prefaced by "euro" is always good in my books. The fact that the face of Eurodale, as represented by builders Brendan Charters and Jim Cunningham, is a very young face, could also have something to do with the fresh approach to the Dream Home.

Eurodale's collaboration with Richard Librach Architect has produced what may be the best Dream Home ever. The modular design, dubbed mod256, reflects the arrangement of ten 16 foot x 16 foot prefabricated building blocks. Think of Habitat at Expo '67 and you'll get the picture, albeit on a smaller scale.

There's even shades of iconic architect Frank Lloyd Wright in this Dream Home with all the straight lines, cantilevered sections, natural materials and large windows to maintain the connection with the outdoors. If you do the math on the building blocks, the Eurodale Dream Home measures out at nearly 2,600 square feet, which explains why CityLine contributed four interior designers to the project. Designers Janette Ewen, Karen Sealy, Sharon Grech and Ramsin Khachi each took a few rooms so you'll be getting the best of each of them as you flow through the home.

Outside-in, inside-out, the 2010 Eurodale Dream Home goes way outside the box, literally and figuratively. And while the Dream Home is the main attraction to the National Home Show, there's so much more including a special guest appearance by Ty Pennington (Friday), Mommy's Day (Monday), Girls Night Out (next Thursday) and, of course, Destination Renovation by BILD, on throughout the Show.

The National Home Show runs tomorrow through Sunday, Feb. 28, at the Direct Energy Centre, Exhibition Place. Visit nationalhomeshow.com for more information.

Stephen Dupuis is president and CEO of the Building Industry and Land Development Association (BILD). He can be reached at president@bildgta.ca.

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Your secret style agent
Got a style dilemma? Vaughan Mills style agents Afiya Fancisco and Janette Ewen offer a number of fashion and style tips on the website styleagents.ca, including information on how to beat the winter blahs. METRO NEWS SERVICE

Style

Joe.ca gets web-savvy

Joe just got fresher with an updated website set to launch next Thursday. It will feature a host of features, including the Joe Fresh Life Blog, daily polls and downloadable tools such as a free outfit assembly iPhone application (see left) and a fashion forecast widget (for daily wardrobe recommendations). The site — which will also include a more pop-art feel — will also unveil feature pieces from the spring 2010 collection. METRO NEWS SERVICE

EDITOR: ANN-MARIE.COLACINO@METRONEWS.CA

Mix & *match*

Layering and the merging of materials shine at New York Fashion Week

ZAC POSEN

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS PHOTOS

NIOLE MILLER

ELIE TAHARI

Can't decide what to wear? Pile it all on.

Layering was a key trend at New York Fashion Week with a mix of fabrics that created a textured look. A few designers like Peter Som and Alexander Wang showed models who looked like they'd thrown on everything in the closet all at once.

Another trend was the contrasting sleeve, using a different material than the rest of the outfit, a look featured at Chris Benz and Derek Lam, among other shows.

Rodarte

The theme of this collection was the hazy state of consciousness that comes between sleep and being awake. Lovely, lace-draped dresses in a light, almost dusty palette captured the feeling of vintage lingerie and wallpaper prints, but there was something weighing on them, too — a seriousness, a respect.

The chunky knits, sometimes with yarn fringe, were just on the right side of looking well loved and worn in, yet luxurious in a way that a designer collection demands.

Elie Tahari

Enough with dressing down, declared Elie Tahari this week at NYFW. "The customer is looking for glamorous clothes. People want to dress up and look good," the designer said. For his collection, Tahari drew inspiration from the chic traveler. "She mixes textures, furs and wears hot over-the-knee boots. It's all the texture and layers that makes it interesting and look new and exciting," he said in an interview.

The layering piece of choice was a long, lean vest, sometimes in wool, sometimes in fur. It could be worn over just about anything from denim to dresses.

Dresses were cut a little closer to the body, perfect to fit under the asymmetrical wool coat with ruffles running vertically down one side or the fur trench.

Layering was a strong theme at Mercedes-Benz New York Fashion Week. The Rodarte collection, left, showcased this trend with lots of chunky knits. Fashion Week ends today.

Nicole Miller

Nicole Miller must have always had a tough spirit inside her — how else could she have lasted so long in the fashion business? — but it's only in her most recent collections that you see that aggressiveness in the clothes.

The scarf-print dresses of yesteryear are gone, replaced by body-hugging dresses, biker shorts and leather leggings.

Seemingly second-skin dresses with tightly pleated tulle might be intimidating to a wearer at first, but probably are quite flattering.

"Black is the signature colour; also camouflage and hints of brick, olive and ash with abstracted references to New York," Miller wrote in her notes.

Zac Posen

Zac Posen, the former flashy showman, who has recently chronicled in the press his struggles to lead a viable business, turned out a mostly understated, chic collection.

As wild as it got here were some copper metallics, pink-dot prints and magenta-coloured fur.

One of the best looks of Posen's was a longer-length magenta velvet jacket with grosgrain trim, a black silk blouse and a short, magenta godet skirt that gave just a little lift to the silhouette.

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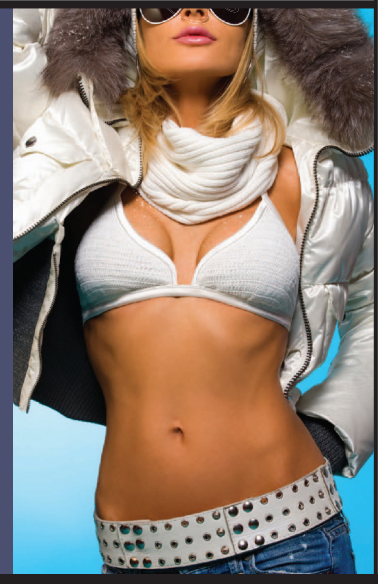

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METRO WORLD NEWS FILE PHOTOS

The spring '10 Dolce & Gabbana show was a return to the brand's roots. Domenico Dolce and Stefano Gabbana (inset) are the founders of the 25-year-old Sicilian luxury label.

D&G embrace the digital age

KENYA HUNT
Metro World News

Last October, Domenico Dolce and Stefano Gabbana put on one of the most talked-about women's wear shows of the season.

It was a full-on extravaganza, with a show stopping crimson and black collection that looked to the brand's Sicilian heritage. It was also a definitive moment in fashion's relationship to the Internet, complete with a front row featuring some of the industry's most popular bloggers and an elaborate high-tech production that projected the show's backstage happenings on giant screens. Weeks and weeks worth of gossipy Tweets, hyper-analytical newspaper "think pieces" and magazine trend stories ensued.

Four months later, the designers opened up to us about their connection with the past and their newfound obsession with the digital future.

Milan Fashion Week starts next Thursday

Q What are your earliest memories of fashion? How do those memories inform your work now?

A **Domenico Dolce:** I was born in Polizzi Generosa, a small town in Sicily. My father was a tailor and my mother had a shop where she sold clothing, fabrics and curtains; it was like an emporium. Since she was very busy with her job, she brought my cradle to my father's tailoring studio. So I grew up among needles and threads. I didn't play with soldiers and car toys, but with clothes. I made my first pair of trousers when I was only seven years old.

Stefano Gabbana: I didn't study fashion and my family was involved in something completely different. I started my career studying graphic design. I got my degree and after six months of work I understood that graphic design wasn't what I wanted. On the contrary, I loved fashion, even if I wasn't very familiar with it.

Q Many fashion designers have tried to grasp the blogosphere, but few have embraced it the way you have. What prompted you to seat bloggers in your front row last season and were you surprised by the reaction?

A **SG:** We decided to open up our front row to bloggers because we wanted to communicate a strong message and if you believe in something you have to move forward with it even if this means breaking the rules. We had good feedback, even though we were expecting these strong kinds of reactions. We were also surprised by the amount of people who watched the pre-show diaries on our website.

DD: The Internet and the blogs represent a new way of communicating that we need and want to take into consideration for our work.

Q What are your favourite websites?

A **SG:** ... For my gossip fix I go to Perez Hilton…

DD: …and the fashion blogs of course. We love Bryan-Boy, The Sartorialist, Garance Doré and Tommy Ton's pictures on his blog, Jack & Jil.

Q Does the Internet influence the way you work at all?

A **SG:** The Internet doesn't influence our way of working, but our way of communicating. It's so fast and quick, handy and immediate. In the Internet, you can find everything, it is a perfect way to do research, but when we design we still use paper and pencils.

Q Your last women's collection and your most recent men's collection seemed to return to your roots, would you agree?

A **DD:** Sometimes to understand yourself ... you need to experiment and follow different ways. But with this collection we wanted to go back to the Dolce & Gabbana DNA. Both the men's and women's collections, can be summed up in three words: Sicily, tailoring and tradition.

LINE PLAY

Sharp, black and graphic: Cut-out booties rock!

Synthetic leather, Spring ($70, myspringshoes.com)

Leather, La Fée Maraboutée ($375, 1-888-356-9226)

Synthetic leather, Aldo ($70, aldoshoes.com)

Leather, Chinese Laundry ($110, ladiva.ca)

Leather, Town Shoes ($135, townshoes.com)

LUXE DOUBLES

When blue and green get together, sparkles fly

Ginseng bangle, Swarovski ($500, swarovski.ca)

Tourmaline and aquamarine earrings, Tiffany & Co. ($34,700, tiffany.ca)

Peacock earring with diamonds, sapphires and garnets, JDJ Jewellery ($13,500, jdj-jewllery.com)

To read these stories and more, visit: **ellecanada.com**

Ralph Lauren's reindeer games

• The Winter Olympics will have a fashion undercurrent this year thanks to Ralph Lauren who has created a winter collection dedicated to the 2010 games. His eponymous brand has also outfitted the American team including the figure skaters, bobsledders and skiers, among others. But no matter what country you're rooting for, this ivory reindeer sweater ($398) will keep you warm and stylish as you watch your favorite athletes compete for the gold.

KENYA HUNT/ METRO WORLD NEWS

In brief

RUNWAY Without the paparazzi in sight — and just a few fashion photographers perched at the end of a black wooden runway — Mary-Kate and Ashley Olsen presented their collection The Row to a small group of fashion insiders at New York Fashion Week earlier this week. The small show, held far away from the Bryant Park tents in a gallery space, showcased a quite serious and sophisticated collection. The first model wore a simple black wrap coat that was belted and black trousers with flat gladiator sandals. Most of the collection was black.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Strange Brew on TV

Laurie Metcalf intends to make Strange Brew. She will star in the Fox comedy pilot about a mother of four who must balance her recent sobriety with her duties for the family-run company: A brewery. TVGUIDE.COM

Entertainment

Lucky number

Taylor Swift is "obsessed" with the number 13. The hitmaker has reportedly been talked out of getting a tattoo of her favourite digit etched onto her arm.

FEMALEFIRST.CO.UK

EDITOR: DEAN.LISK@METRONEWS.CA

●●●●● A CLASSIC; ●●●● EXCELLENT; ●●● GOOD; ●● FAIR; ● POOR

Page steps out of comfort zone

Art Of Time Ensemble **With Steven Page**

Album: A Singer Must Die
Label: Pheromone Records
Rating: ●●●½

AN ONGOING CONCEPT, Toronto's Art Of Time Ensemble commingle classical abilities with contemporary music and popular artists — this time former Barenaked Lady Steven Page — to re-imagine a number of songs. With A Singer Must Die, the collective's take on Page's selections are broad and sincere. The Mountain Goats' Lion's Teeth boasts bold theatricality, Elvis Costello's I Want You is serene while grandiose best defines Page's own Running Out Of Ink. Yes, some tracks are outright odd (Weakerthans/Radiohead) with Page reaching beyond his abilities and the ensemble becoming too extravagant but overall the union works, pushing Page outside of comfort zones and offering Art Of Time an inimitable vocalist.

Keith Carman/for Metro Canada

Jay **Malinowski**

Album: Bright Lights & Bruises
Label: Pirates Blend/Sony Music
Rating: ●●●½

LIKE ALEXISONFIRE'S DALLAS Green before him, Jay Malinowski of Bedouin Soundclash seeks some needed revitalization through a solo project. It's Malinowski's way of finding an outlet for the angst-ridden folk singer otherwise buried beneath the rose-coloured reggae of Bedouin Soundclash (B.S., for short). Unlike Green's tremendously popular City and Colour albums, it's doubtful that Malinowski's solo debut will produce platinum sales. Songs like Narceritos — about Vancouver's downtown east side drug habitués — are probably a tad too dark to turn on fans of B.S. But it's those journeys into the dark side that makes this record shine. He pulls it off without being overly emotive ... or worse ... gushy.

Graham Rockingham/for Metro Canada

Former Barenaked Ladies frontman Steven Page has teamed up with the Art Of Time Ensemble for his first solo project, titled A Singer Must Die. Read our interview with Page at metronews.ca/music.

Peter **Gabriel**

Album: Scratch My Back
Label: Universal
Rating: ●●½

AFTER GIVING US only two albums in the last 20 years, Peter Gabriel's fans may be wondering why they had to wait so long for an album of covers. But after surprising people last year by name-dropping himself on his cover of Vampire Weekend's Cape Cod Kwassa Kwassa, Gabriel finishes the job with songs by Arcade Fire, Radiohead, Bon Iver and Magnetic Fields, along with oldies like Lou Reed and Neil Young. Gabriel's quest for relevance produces some interesting and even arresting results, but hearing one dour, orchestral arrangement after another fails to match the monkey-shocking range of his past. A disappointment considering the potential this project had.

Cam Lindsay/for Metro Canada

Yukon **Blonde**

Album: Yukon Blonde
Label: Nevado
Rating: ●●●½

COUNTLESS BANDS TRY to pull off CSNY, but only few do it well. Luckily, Vancouver's Yukon Blonde pull it off. Their lush harmonies and infectious pop definitely take a page from the '60s stars, but they tackle Sloan, Midlake and other catchy rock acts too. It's all singable stuff, but Blood Cops, with its soaring Thrush Hermit-like chorus and layered "la la" vocals is a must hear. As good as it is, there's room for improvement — some of the melodies don't have as strong an impact as they could. Still, this is definitely a band to watch.

Bryan Borzykowski/for Metro Canada

The Soft **Pack**

Album: The Soft Pack
Label: Kemado
Rating: ●●●●

ORIGINALLY CALLED THE Muslims, San Diego's The Soft Pack never actually softened up after picking a far less controversial name. Nor should they have with an M.O. as easy as "play simple, catchy, smart rock songs." On their debut album the quartet deliver on their promise, with no frills rock 'n' roll that touches as much on the rambling proto-punk of The Modern Lovers as it does The Strokes affinity that everyone will make. Quite simply, The Soft Pack play their cards right with uncomplicated, strummy jams that don't forget to break away every once in a while from the sameness with a breezy crooner like Mexico or a bona fide anthem like Down On Lovin'.

Cam Lindsay/for Metro Canada

Album**Reviews**

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Tindersticks

Album: Falling Down a Mountain
Label: 4AD
Rating: ●●●

BRITAIN'S GOT PLENTY of underrated brooding acts, but there aren't many with the Tindersticks' large cult following. Since reforming in 2008 — after a five-year hiatus — the group have sounded more focused and energized than ever. That doesn't mean they're happier; their latest is another batch of soft, haunting tunes. This album is more droney and experimental — especially the title track — than past efforts, but it still works. Bonus points for getting Canadian Margaret O'Hara to sing a duet on the record.

Bryan Borzykowski/for Metro Canada

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Erecting a movie deal

The Meccano Toy Company, maker of the Erector Set, has signed a licensing deal to make a 3-D movie based on their 100-year-old toy. Meccano inked a deal with indie film company Helix Films, which is now currently developing a script. EW.COM

GETTY IMAGES

Documentary filmmaker Lucy Walker travelled to the largest landfill on Earth.

Rethinking trash in Berlin

NED EHRBAR
for Metro World News

Documentary filmmaker Lucy Walker's 2010 is off to a great start. Her latest work, Waste Land, won the Audience Award at the Sundance Film Festival last month, even though the film was finished mere hours before screening. Waste Land follows artist Vik Muniz as he creates art from Jardim Gramacho, the world's largest landfill on the outskirts of Rio de Janeiro, transforming the lives of some of the site's workers in the process. Walker spoke with Metro while presenting her film at the Berlinale film festival.

Q You finished the film just in time for Sundance?

A I think technically we didn't finish. At our first screening here there were no subtitles on the end scene, where (documentary subject) Tiao says, "We don't pick garbage. We pick recycled materials, which can be reused" — which normally brings the house down as a punch line. I was watching it thinking, why are people not reacting? Oh, wait, because there are no subtitles.

Q Tiao and the workers in the film are really amazing.

A I know, right? It's like Shakespeare wrote them, or something, right?

We were expecting these sort of flesh-eating zombies, not even human, sort of sci-fi garbage monsters. And then you get there and you find the coolest people ever. I love how different they all are, as well. It's like a great force of resistance to generalization. They're all really different people with different experiences.

Q Were you nervous about going to the world's largest trash dump?

A We got every inoculation possible. Our medical bill was, like, half the budget. We're going to Brazil. On the map at the travel vaccination service, Brazil has every disease you can get vaccinated against. And then you tell them, "Oh yeah, I'm going to be working in the garbage dump," and they open up a whole other map and a whole other cupboard of vaccines. By the time we got there we couldn't move our arms. And then you get there and after half an hour you go, "Wait. Everyone's healthy."

Q The film raises an interesting question about showing these people a different life and then returning them to where you found them.

A I love that the question is there for the audience to talk about. We're not hiding it. I think that on balance, so many beautiful and good things have come out of this.

This was an amazing collaboration, and the way it's all worked out feels so beautiful now.

But transformation is really hard, and change always brings suffering as well as fresh opportunity.

And if you grow, you don't necessarily fit back to where you were before.

Q What have you learned from doing this project?

A One very basic, practical point is this point about recycling.

We became vigilant recyclers — not that we weren't before.

But now, when you're really forced to think about it, how can you not become more responsible when you become more aware?

That definitely happened to us, big-time.

International film fare served up at the 60th Berlinale festival

NED EHRBAR
for Metro World News

FILM FESTIVAL Competition is heating up at the 60th annual Berlinale as more films enjoy world premieres and vie for recognition at the festival's closing night awards gala Saturday.

Among the high profile films in competition to hit the red carpet were Norway's A Somewhat Gentle Man, a stark comedy starring Stellan Skarsgard that's garnering rave reviews, and American director Nicole Holofcener's Please Give, starring Amanda Peet and Catherine Keener.

"I don't know if it's a problem with ADD in the United States, but people do not get up half as much during movies here."
Debra Granik
film maker and
Grand Jury Prize
winner at Sundance

Also premiering at the festival, though not in competition, is Jackie Chan's latest adventure film from China, Little Big Soldier. The story, thought up by Chan more than 20 years ago, follows a bumbling soldier and a general he takes captive in war-torn China in 220 B.C. The actor, who also produced the film and directed the action sequences, sees the film as both entertainment and a call for peace around the world.

Chan's 2010 is already off to a busy start, after last month's The Spy Next Door and this month's premiere. He'll be seen later this year in a remake of The Karate Kid. But the 55-year-old Chinese star insists he's now looking for more message-oriented fare at this point in his career.

"I don't make films to make money," he said. "I have enough money. I want to make films that say something."

The 60th annual festival has also seen the European premieres of several favourites from the Sundance Film Festival in Utah last month, including Lucy Walker's documentary Waste Land, which won the Audience Award at Sundance, and Debra Granik's Grand Jury Prize winner Winter's Bone.

After only a couple of days in Berlin, Granik has already noticed differences between U.S. and European audiences.

"I don't know if it's a problem with ADD in the United States, but people do not get up half as much during movies here," Granik said.

"I was in a challenging, beautiful, really long and gentle Taiwanese film today, and no one moved."

Jackie Chan debuted his new film Little Big Soldier

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German film challenges norms in the Islamic faith

NEW FILM A first-time German director's film about Muslims struggling to come to terms with unwanted pregnancy, homosexuality and other challenges to their beliefs debuted yesterday at the Berlin film festival.

Shahada, or Faith, is one of 20 movies in the festival's main competition. The first feature film from Burhan Qurbani, a 29-year-old German Muslim.

"I wanted to show in my film that Muslims and Islam are not only one face, Arabic, (with a) beard, but it's really colourful," the director said of the variety of characters in his film.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Cohen, Foster to join songwriters' hall

Canadians Leonard Cohen and David Foster and key members of Earth, Wind&Fire are among those up for membership in the Songwriters Hall of Fame this year. The ceremony is set for June 17 in New York City. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Musical brotherhood

Scorsese and Robertson: A relationship that has lasted

The Last Waltz may have been a festive parting for the members of the Band, but for Martin Scorsese and Robbie Robertson it was the opening number.

Since directing Robertson and his bandmates in that famed 1978 concert film, Scorsese, 67, and Robertson, 66, have been close friends and consistent collaborators. From Raging Bull to Scorsese's latest film, Shutter Island, Robertson has frequently consulted on the music in Scorsese's movies.

"We've always had this relationship going back and forth," Scorsese said in a recent interview. "We started a kind of relationship in which we'd touch base as to every film I was doing and the type of music I was using."

Shutter Island is the eighth film they've worked on together by Robertson's count. While Scorsese's loyalties to Robert De Niro and Leonardo DiCaprio have been widely documented, his work with Robertson has spanned more time than either. Sandy Weintraub, a girlfriend of Scorsese's in the '70s, once said the best relationship Scorsese (who has been married to his fifth wife, Helen Morris, since 1999) ever had was with Robertson.

"With some people you just know: We're in it," says Robertson.

The two were first introduced by Jonathan Taplin, who produced Mean Streets and also helped in the management of The Band, the revered, multitalented '70s act with whom Robertson played guitar.

"He was too cool, far too cool," recalls Scorsese of his first impression. "There was a different sensibility, I thought."

When Scorsese came aboard to direct The Band's final concert on Thanksgiving in 1976 at the Winterland Ballroom in San Francisco, the project grew from a modest attempt to document the event, to a full-fledged production on 35mm film.

Despite their different backgrounds — one a paranoid Catholic from New York, the other a Canadian-born rocker of Jewish and Mohawk heritage — they hit it off. Robertson moved in with Scorsese at his Mulholland Drive house in Los Angeles, where the two spiritedly shared their respective disciplines in marathon listening sessions and midnight double-features.

It was also a time when cocaine was rampant around Hollywood, especially at Scorsese's house. The director recalls it as "a pretty heated time" that he narrowly survived, partly thanks to De Niro's intervention.

"It was almost like having a war buddy," says Robertson. "We were in the trenches together and we got out alive and a bomb went off right beside us. It's that kind of feeling. In the course of that, it just made us really, really good friends."

Scorsese's next film, Raging Bull, would synthesize those times. It also was the first time Robertson assisted on a Scorsese score.

In nearly four decades of making movies, Scorsese has only worked with three composers: Bernard Herrmann (the jazzy score of Taxi Driver), Elmer Bernstein (Cape Fear, Bringing Out the Dead) and Howard Shore. Shore has contributed to After Hours, Gangs of New York, Aviator and The Departed, for which Scorsese says he wanted to be scored by tango "because the tango is dangerous."

"I've always felt obliged not to do a conventional score because I don't come from that world," the director says. "I'm concerned that sometimes scores are used to tell you what to feel, when to feel it."

Scorsese's relationship to music is as strong as any filmmaker's.

Aside from The Last Waltz (the most common criticism of which was that Scorsese focused too much on Robertson), there's 2008's Shine a Light, 2005's No Direction Home: Bob Dylan and 2003's miniseries The Blues. He's also currently finishing a George Harrison documentary and planning a Frank Sinatra biopic.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

In this May 29, 1978 file photo, American director Martin Scorsese, left, and Canadian musician Robbie Robertson are shown in the French Riviera to present Last Waltz at the Cannes film festival.

Baruchel stars in serial killer thriller shooting in Montreal

With four films coming out practically back to back in the next few months, actor Jay Baruchel jokingly suggests he's worried about overexposure.

"It's been a heck of a year for me," he says on the set of the thriller he's shooting in his own Montreal neighbourhood. "I hope people don't get sick of me."

Baruchel is reteaming with his director and pal Jacob Tierney from The Trotsky, which hits theatres in May, for a character-driven feature about three people whose lives intersect when they become neighbours in a Montreal apartment building.

The film has the working title Notre Dame de Grace, named for the west-end Montreal district where Baruchel grew up and which he still calls home.

In it, three people — played by Baruchel, Scott Speedman and Emily Hampshire — cope with a serial killer who is terrorizing the neighbourhood. But none of them are any serious contestants for a Mr. Nice Guy contest either.

"If there's a good guy, I'm the good guy," says Baruchel, who plays Victor, an elementary school teacher."

"But I can't say I'm the good guy because my character's friggin' crazy. He's got his own issues.

"But compared to the other two, I am the good guy."

Baruchel says that's the genius of Tierney, who doesn't write good guy characters that are 100 per cent good and bad guys who are 100 per cent bad.

"When does that ever exist in reality?" says Baruchel, whose list of credits includes Knocked Up and Tropic Thunder.

"He's created actual people and I love what he does, so to get the chance to inhabit another one of his beautiful characters is something that I'll always jump at."

That's echoed by Speedman, whose character was crippled in a car accident that killed his wife and left him in a wheelchair.

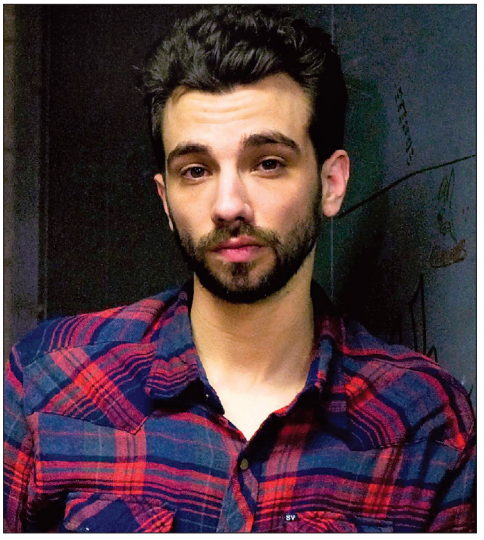
"He's a bad guy," Speedman says with a smile, confessing it's tough to describe the character without giving away too much of the plot — but he notes he may not be the worst person in the movie.

Playing someone confined to wheelchair was also a challenge for Speedman, who is often seen in physical roles in action films like Underworld.

"I think that's why Jacob wanted me to do it, to make me sit still for a while," he said. "It was challenging but not as much as I thought it would be. I got a wheelchair down in L.A. for three or four weeks and rode around in it in my house and got acclimated and tried to figure it out.

"It's pretty interesting how little you can really do."

THE CANADIAN PRESS



Actor Jay Baruchel poses for a photo during a break from shooting his new film Notre Dame De Grace in Montreal.

Rip Torn court date postponed

PEOPLE A judge has postponed actor Rip Torn's next court appearance until March, citing a scheduling conflict.

The Men in Black actor was to appear in court yesterday to enter pleas to burglary and firearms charges.

He is accused of breaking into a bank in his hometown of Salisbury, Conn., last month with a loaded revolver while intoxicated.

Torn has been in an alcohol rehabilitation program since shortly after his January arraignment.

Torn had received probation last year as part of a drunken driving case and also had alcohol-related arrests in the past.

Torn is now due in Litchfield Superior Court on March 9.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Aloha! Manning
Taryn Manning is the latest to sign on to CBS' Hawaii Five-O remake. Manning joins previously announced stars Alex O'Loughlin and Lost's Daniel Dae Kim. TVGUIDE.COM

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McQueen hanged himself

Coroner's inquest points to designer's suicide

Alexander McQueen hanged himself in his apartment on the eve of his mother's funeral after leaving behind a note, a coroner's inquest said yesterday in the first confirmation of details of the fashion designer's death.

The inquest — which has yet to formally rule McQueen's death a suicide — opened as London Fashion Week prepared to mark the passing of one of British fashion's brightest stars.

Coroner's official Lynda Martindill told the inquest at Westminster Coroners Court that 40-year-old McQueen died from asphyxiation and hanging.

Days before his body was found last Thursday, McQueen had left several messages on the social networking site Twitter revealing his grief at the death of his mother days earlier.

The designer's body was found in the armoire at his London apartment and was formally identified by his sister, Janet.

Police detective inspector Paul Armstrong told the inquest there were no suspicious circumstances.

After a five-minute hearing, coroner Paul Knapman adjourned the inquest until April 28. McQueen's family, who are now free to hold the designer's funeral, issued a statement through their lawyers appealing to the media to respect their privacy.

In Britain, inquests are held whenever someone dies violently or in unexplained circumstances.

Alexander McQueen

McQueen's death has cast a shadow over London Fashion Week, which opens Friday. A spokeswoman said the event would feature a tribute to the designer, whose attention-grabbing designs helped re-energize British fashion after a fallow period following the punk explosion in the 1970s.

"There will be something simple and tasteful," she said. "The time for memorials will be later in the year."

She spoke on condition of anonymity because organizers are waiting for McQueen's family to approve the tribute.

Known for his dramatic statement pieces and impeccable tailoring, McQueen dressed celebrities from Cameron Diaz to Lady Gaga and influenced a generation of designers.

The son of a cab driver, McQueen grew up on a public housing estate in London's East End, left school at 16 and entered the fashion world the old-fashioned way, as a teenage apprentice to a Saville Row tailor.

He later studied at Central St. Martin's art college in London and was discovered by fashion guru Isabella Blow, who bought his entire graduation collection. She became a friend and mentor; her suicide three years ago shook the designer, who wept openly at her funeral.

McQueen was a private man who avoided the limelight but his Twitter postings show emotional turmoil after his mother's death on Feb. 2. McQueen had posted messages four days before his death about his "awful week," and said he had to "somehow pull myself together and finish."

His mother's funeral was held the day after McQueen died.

Friends also said he might have felt under pressure to outdo himself at the unveiling of his spring collection in Paris next month. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Judges, from left, Simon Cowell, Ellen DeGeneres, Kara DioGuardi and Randy Jackson hold court on Fox TV's American Idol.

Judges send 7 to Idol's Top 24 heaven

TALENT CONTEST Seven American Idol contestants can stop worrying, for now: They're in the top 24.

The Fox TV singing contest revealed the first of the lucky semifinalists on Tuesday's show. They are: Didi Benami, 23, of Los Angeles; Lee Dewyze, 23, Mount Prospect, Ill.; Katelyn Epperly, 19, West Des Moines, Iowa; Aaron Kelly, 16, Sonestown, Pa.; Casey James, 27, Fort Worth, Texas; Todrick Hall, 24, Arlington, Texas; and Michael "Big Mike" Lynche, 26, of Astoria, N.Y.

The other 17 semifinalists chosen by the show's four-judge panel were set to be revealed on Wednesday's episode in the culmination of Hollywood Week auditions.

Sentiment ruled Tuesday among the few who emerged from the remaining field of 71 contestants.

Lynche, who last week was shown listening in by cellphone as his wife gave birth to their daughter, had a message for the newborn: "Coming to take care of you. Big Daddy's coming."

Benami said she was competing with an "angel" on her side, her late best friend.

"She would have wanted to do this so much, and she never got the chance to. And I have the chance to do this," said Benami, who wept when the judges gave her a thumbs-up.

The judges, including newcomer Ellen DeGeneres, also ended dreams Tuesday. Some took it better than others.

"It wasn't my time right now,'' said a composed Shelby Dressel of Avon Park, Fla. The 19-year-old, who was born with partial facial paralysis, added: "Let people see, regardless of any insecurity, just be you."

Simon Cowell, marking his ninth and final season as judge, responded with an unusual flash of regret. "It's the wrong decision," he murmured.

Jessica Furney, 21, of Wamego, Kan., made a less graceful exit.

"I can do this. Do not send me home. I have it," pleaded Furney, who tried out last season as well.

The judges attempted to soothe her, with DeGeneres suggesting it wasn't the end of the road for her career. Furney was unmoved.

"How do you know that?" she demanded.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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SECOND CUP

'Heartless jerks': Palin's daughter to Family Guy

Sarah Palin is lashing out at the portrayal of a character with Down syndrome on the Fox animated comedy Family Guy.

In a Facebook posting headlined "Fox Hollywood — What a Disappointment," the 2008 Republican vice-presidential nominee and current Fox News contributor said Sunday night's episode felt like "another kick in the gut." Palin's youngest son, Trig, has Down syndrome.

The episode features the character Chris falling for a girl with Down syndrome. On a date, he asks what her parents do.

She replies: "My dad's an accountant, and my mom is the former governor of Alaska."

Palin resigned as Alaska governor last summer.

Palin

Palin's oldest daughter, Bristol, also was quoted on her mother's Facebook page, calling the show's writers "heartless jerks."

"When you're the son or daughter of a public figure, you have to develop thick skin. My siblings and I all have that, but insults directed at our youngest brother hurt too much for us to remain silent," she is quoted as saying.

"If the writers of a particularly pathetic cartoon show thought they were being clever in mocking my brother and my family yesterday, they failed," Bristol Palin added in the Monday posting. "All they proved is that they're heartless jerks." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

"(Family Guy episode) another kick in the gut."
Sarah Palin

Celeb hunting out West

Crawford, Colbert and Kidman said to be visiting Olympics

JESSICA BELL
For Metro Canada

The unofficial Olympic event in Vancouver is quickly become celebrity hunting, with Cindy Crawford, Stephen Colbert and Nicole Kidman all in town during the Games.

Vancouver's own queen of gossip, Elaine "Lainey" Lui, has her sight set on them.

"Vancouver has a good reputation with celebrities," said Lui yesterday. "There is a luxuriousness about Vancouver that celebrities have always liked and now that the Games are on they have that added excitement."

In less than a week, Lui has spent time with Olympic and Hollywood celebrities, including Crawford, Wayne Gretzky and American comedian Seth Meyers.

She attended Crawford's private party at the Omega lounge in Vancouver at the Fairmont Hotel Sunday.

Contributing to the celebrity hunt is Omega watches, which flew in U.S. Olympic gold medalist Michael Phelps and the "Space Cowboys" astronaut team, including Dr. Buzz Aldrin from Apollo 11.

They will be at the Fairmont Hotel Vancouver starting today and although some said that George Clooney was in town, Chris Hollinrake from Omega public relations confirmed those were "just rumours."

Hollinrake did say that actress Nicole Kidman and husband Keith Urban would be in Vancouver, but the pair are on holidays and won't be making any known appearances.

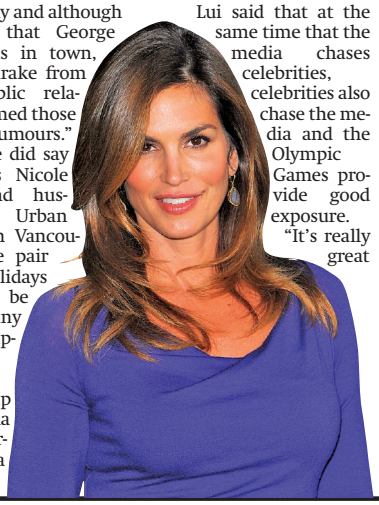
Colbert showed up near Russia House yesterday to film a segment of The Colbert Report before heading to the Richmond Oval. He is in town to cheer on the U.S. speed skating team.

Gretzky will be at the Molson Canadian Hockey House Feb. 19, and golfer Mike Weir is expected at the Ontario Pavilion downtown.

Lui said that at the same time that the media chases celebrities, celebrities also chase the media and the Olympic Games provide good exposure.

"It's really great because people were saying Vancouver would be apathetic about the Olympics, but they aren't," she said.

Vancouver, known as "Hollywood North," is three hours north of Los Angeles and is the third-largest film centre in North America behind L.A. and New York City.



Left: Cindy Crawford is one of many celebrities who has been spotted visiting Vancouver during the Games.

Who's here?

Some of the celebrities rumoured to appear in Vancouver and Whistler during the 2010 Winter Games include:

- Socialite Paris Hilton
- Actor Hayden Christensen
- Golfer Sergio Garcia
- Musician Sean "Diddy" Combs
- U.S. Vice President Joe Biden

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Rates Rise Again

Ontario Regulators Approve More Increases To Car Insurance Rates

Are Rates REALLY Going Up Again?

Unfortunately, the answer is yes. The most recent round of rate increases approved by Ontario regulators has confirmed everyone's worst fears. Car insurance rates are continuing on their one-way trip upwards despite news late last year that the government will soon be introducing reforms to give consumers more choice and flexibility. The most recent increases for the fourth quarter of 2009 bring the average increase across Ontario insurers over the last 12 months to 8.8%. Depending on the insurance company you are with and your situation, you might be on the road to seeing double-digit increases.

Is There Any Hope Of Paying LESS For Car Insurance?

Absolutely. Rates may be on the rise, but the size of the increases can vary significantly from one company to the next and from driver to driver, so don't be fooled by the headlines which suggest we're all doomed to pay more for car insurance. The truth is that rates charged by different insurance companies to insure the same driver, with the same car, for the same coverage, can vary by hundreds and even thousands of dollars. Take a look at the table below.

The key to finding the best rate is to figure out which insurance company has the best rate for your particular situation. And with rates varying so wildly across companies, chances are you are not with the company that has the lowest rate for your profile right now. This is where InsuranceHotline.com can help by instantly providing quotes from over 30 insurance companies to find you the lowest rate available – and the service is absolutely FREE to use.

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CW renews five series

The CW has handed early fall renewals to five series: The Vampire Diaries, Gossip Girl, 90210, Supernatural and America's Next Top Model. TVGUIDE.COM

Reporter tries TV

TELEVISION Globe and Mail writer Leah McLaren has turned her experiences as a London-based reporter into a TV pilot. Abroad, starring Liane Balaban, is set to air on CBC-TV on March 14.

CBC says the movie focuses on Amy Pearce, a female reporter who takes a junior position at a London newspaper and struggles to understand English men. The two-hour production is a comedy pilot for a series in development. Comedian Sean Cullen co-stars as an eccentric editor while Maury Chaykin plays a newspaper baron. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Tracking Oscar's progress

Putting on the Academy Awards is a major undertaking, as first-time Oscar producing pair Bill Mechanic and Adam Shankman are learning. They've agreed to offer occasional updates on the day-to-day challenges of putting on the big show.

With three weeks to showtime, Shankman and Mechanic are working around the clock to execute their vision for the 82nd annual Academy Awards.

"The words 'all hell breaks loose' come to mind," Shankman says.

The challenges? Locking down the presenters. Finalizing the film clips. Perfecting the production numbers. Securing the state-of-the-art set.

"I think we're being challenging because we're telling everybody to constantly go back to the drawing board," Shankman says.

"Some people are not happy," Mechanic adds.

The producers keep fine-tuning the show's film clips and script before the Oscar team moves into the Kodak Theatre next week. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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T.O. fashion finds home

After living nomad-style for years — in tents erected first at Nathan Phillips Square then last year on King St. W. — Toronto Fashion Week has come inside.

Following last-minute negotiations, Robin Kay, executive director of the Fashion Design Council of Canada — the body that mounts LG Fashion Week — told Torstar News Services Tuesday that a home has been nailed down.

"We've been in talks for six weeks and we just secured the building 10 minutes ago," she said.

The Toronto shows, which run from March 28 to April 2 — 18 days after the end of Paris Fashion Week — will be held in a vacant warehouse at 30 Ordnance St. in the King St. W. and Strachan Ave. neighbourhood.

For fashionistas who complained that the last shows were too far from the centre of town, Kay offered that at least "it's no farther than last year.

"It is on the very edge of Liberty Market."

Kay said finding dates that suited all participants was tricky. She had considered holding the event during March break, but was met with considerable opposition, she said.

Kay is obviously psyched about the building. "It has fantastic 40-foot ceilings," she noted, adding that the runway will be constructed inside the building, and the expected enormous white tent will be erected in front of the building.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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Fashion Design Council of Canada's executive director Robin Kay.

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TLC settles lawsuit with Gosselin

LEGAL The TLC network has reached a settlement with reality TV star Jon Gosselin over a breach of contract lawsuit.

The network sued Gosselin in Montgomery County, Md., Circuit Court in October. Gosselin also filed a countersuit, claiming TLC violated Pennsylvania's child labour laws in filming Jon&Kate Plus 8 about the Pennsylvania family with eight children.

The network says that all terms of the settlement are confidential and the whole Gosselin family remains under contract.

Mark Jay Heller, Gosselin's attorney, says the settlement was filed Wednesday and Gosselin did not appear in court.

Heller did not disclose details, but said all litigation has ended and he hopes "this new adventure for TLC and the Gosselins is a much more joyful journey."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

In brief

COURT Fashion designer and convicted rapist Anand Jon Alexander says his legal bills have exhausted his fortune.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

TO 2/18/10

	Vu	SD	C		7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
primetime	265	353	2	TVO	Mighty Movers		The Agenda With Steve Paikin		Party Animals		MasterWorks (N)		Agenda-Paikin
	211	331	3	GTV	Entertainment	ET Canada	Survivor: Heroes vs. Villains		The Office	The Office	90210 (HDTV)		News Hour
	215	343	4	OMN1	Two/Half Men	XXI Winter Olympics Hockey. (Live)					Law & Order: Criminal Intent		Metropia
	210	302	6	CBC	Wheel Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	The Nature of Things (N)		Tasered (N)		CBC News: The National		The Hour
	214	344	7	CITY	Murdoch Mysteries (HDTV)		How I Met	Parks/Recreat	30 Rock	30 Rock	Dark Blue		News
	212	313	8	CTV	(6) XXI Winter Olympics Hockey, Snowboarding, Figure Skating, Medal Ceremonies. (Live)								
	218	345	11	CHCH	*Something to Talk About* ★★ (1995, Comedy-Drama)				*Alex & Emma* ★★ (2003, Romance-Comedy) Kate Hudson.				News at 11 (N)
	-	-	14	-	Family Guy	XXI Winter Olympics Hockey. (Live)					Two/Half Men	The Simpsons	Cold Case
	213	326	15	SUN	George Lopez	The Insider (N)	Stargate SG-1		Supernatural (HDTV)		The Insider	Hitchcock Pres	Becker
	-	387	16	CBS	Inside Edition	Access H.	Survivor: Heroes vs. Villains		The Mentalist (HDTV)		CSI: Crime Scene Investigat'n		News 4 at 11
	-	385	17	NBC	Entertainment	Olympic Zone	XXI Winter Olympics Figure Skating, Snowboarding, Speed Skating. (HDTV) (Live)						
	-	386	18	ABC	Wheel Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	The Deep End (N)		Grey's Anatomy (N)		(10:01) Private Practice (N)		News
	219	346	20	ACH-B	TMZ (N)	Access H.	CSI: Crime Scene Investigat'n		Grey's Anatomy (N)		(10:01) Private Practice (N)		A News
	-	-	28	FOX	Judge Judy (N)	Two/Half Men	Bones (HDTV PA)		Past Life "Soul Music"		Seinfeld	Two/Half Men	The Simpsons
	-	388	61	PBS	PBS NewsHour	My Hero	Doc Martin		Britography (DVS)		MI-5		Business Rpt.
	297	652	330	WPX	Two/Half Men	Family Guy	The Vampire Diaries		Supernatural (HDTV)		PIX News at Ten Tong.		Two/Half Men
	296	654	331	SBK	The Insider (N)	Entertainment	Law & Order: Special Victims		WBZ News (N)	'70s Show	Frasier	Frasier	The Office
	298	653	332	TLA	The Tyra Show (N)		According-Jim	Family Guy	KTLA News	KTLA News	Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	Vamp. Diaries
news	502	390	26	NW	Connect Today's biggest stories. (N)				CBC News: The National		The Nature of Things		National
	500	500	33	CNN	Situation Room-Wolf Blitzer		Campbell Brown (N)		Larry King Live (N)		Anderson Cooper 360 (HDTV)		
	509	504	79	CNB	Kudlow Report		Asia Squawk Box (Live)		Cash Flow (Live)				Mad Money
sports	405	417	22	net	(6) XXI Winter Olympics Hockey, Curling, Figure Skating. (HDTV) (Live)								
	400	400	30	TSN	(6) XXI Winter Olympics Curling, Figure Skating, Hockey. Curling; Figure Skating: Free Skate, Men's; Hockey, Men's: Slovakia vs. Russia.								
	411	457	58	OLN	(6:59) XXI Winter Olympics Skeleton. From Vancouver, B.C. Skeleton: men's and women's. (Live)								
family	417	406	81	SC	Pass Time	NASCAR Hub	Pinks -- All Out (HDTV)		Pinks Outtakes	Bullrun Sur	Bullrun (HDTV) (N)		Pass Time
	551	542	25	YTV	Fries That?	Prank Patrol	The Next Star "16 to 6"		Prank Patrol	Prank Patrol	Family Biz	To Be Indie	Prank Patrol
	554	544	45	TEL	Stoked	Total Drama	Majority Rules	6TEEN (N)	Futurama	King of the Hill	*Planet of the Apes* (2001, Science Fiction)		
cable variety	556	540	51	FAM	Sonny Chance	Suite Life	Overruled!	Han. Montana	Wizards-Place	Latest Buzz	Ned's School	Cory in House	That's-Raven
	602	567	27	W	Supernanny		Love It or List It		Confidential	Confidential	Divine Design	House-Sell	Love It-List It
	570	580	29	MM	So You Think You Can Dance				So You Think You Can Dance		MOD Live at the Base		Concert Series
	615	520	31	A&E	The First 48 (HDTV)		The First 48 (HDTV)		The First 48 (HDTV) (N)		Manhunters	Manhunters	Manhunters
	700	800	35	TLN	Centrovetrine	Sky TG 24	Le Foto di Gioia				George Lopez	George Lopez	Lopez Tonight
	571	581	36	MMM	The Daily Fix		Ranked!		Bono and the Edge		Entourage	Wild 'n Out	mmtop10.ca
	575	583	38	CMT	Amer. Funniest Home Videos		Reba	Reba	According-Jim	According-Jim	Home Improve.	Home Improve.	UnStable
	616	521	39	SHO	Relic Hunter		*Love Sick: Secrets of a Sex Addict* (2008, Docudrama)				Cra$h & Burn "Til Death"		Law Order
	620	523	40	BVO	Storytellers	PhotoXplorers	Innovators	Writers	*Lucid* ★★ (2005, Mystery) Jonas Chernick.				Law & Order
	601	562	41	SLC	Rich Bride Poor Bride		X-Weighted		Bootcamp	Last 10	Re-Vamped		ET Canada
	522	506	43	HIS	Pawn Stars	Pawn Stars	Ancient Discoveries		Ancestors	Ancestors	Nostradamus Effect		Jetman
	625	548	44	COM	Air Farce	22 Minutes	Corner Gas	Name Is Earl	The Simpsons	South Park	Martin	Sarah	Daily Show
	600	564	46	H&G	House Hunters	Property Virgin	Holmes Inspection		House-Bryan	Real Renos (N)	House Hunters	House Hunters	Holmes
	294	529	47	TBS	Family Guy	Family Guy	House/Payne	House/Payne	Law & Order: Special Victims		*Blade: Trinity* ★★ (2004, Horror)		
	576	582	49	BET	106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live		Michael Vick	Michael Vick	*Unbreakable* ★★ (2000, Suspense) Bruce Willis.				Mo'Nique
	627	528	50	SPC	Stargate Atlantis (DVS)		Star Trek: Voyager		Smallville "Crossfire"		Lost Locke seeks help.		InnerSpace
	581	566	52	MTV	Canada's Next Top Model		Canada's Next Top Model		16 and Pregnant		Taking, Stage	Made	MTV Live
	618	524	54	TROP	Reality	Whatever	Family Guy	Family Guy	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	'70s Show	King	Comeback
	603	561	56	FOOD	Ricardo	Chuck-Day Off	Restaurant Makeover		Extreme Cuisine, Jeff Corwin		Ace of Cakes	Ace of Cakes	Restaurant
	261	394	60	V	Murder, She Wrote		On the Buses	Watchtower	*Great Expectations* ★★ (1998, Drama) Ethan Hawke, Gwyneth Paltrow.				
	621	527	63	STR	Look-A-Like	TMZ	The Ellen DeGeneres Show (N)		The View (HDTV) (N)		The Dr. Oz Show (N)		TMZ
	553	546	65	TRE	Backyardigans	Night Garden	Waybuloo	Franklin	Little Bear	Maggie-Beast	Babar	Zigby	Max & Ruby
	526	507	249	VIVA	Cold Case		Missing A bus disappears.		The Closer		Cold Case		Psychic Inv.
	300	601	301	M1	*The Brothers Bloom* ★★ (2008, Comedy-Drama)				*Management* (2008, Romance-Comedy)			Bloodletting	Cures
	305	612	306	PIX	*Shane* ★★★★ (1953, Western) Alan Ladd, Jean Arthur.				*A Time to Kill* ★★★ (1996, Drama) Sandra Bullock, Samuel L. Jackson.				
	520	146	-	DISC	Daily Planet (N)		Alaska: Most Extreme		Arctic Roughnecks		MythBusters		Daily Planet
	637	-	-	TVLND	Red Green	Red Green	Fantasy Island		Hart to Hart		Andy Griffith	Phil Silvers	Bizarre
	605	-	-	FASH	Britain's Next Top Model		FashionTele	RAW	Canada's Next Top Model		Britain's Next Top Model		Australia's

critics'corner

Management
Jennifer Aniston probably is used to being the object of many people's attention, but she's mostly the target of only one — a smitten motel worker played by Steve Zahn — in this comedy from writer-director Stephen Belber. After her saleswoman character stays at his establishment, he follows her home, determined to win her heart ... despite her former beau's (Woody Harrelson) re-entry into her life. Fred Ward also appears. 9 PM on M1

XXI Winter Olympics
Tonight in Vancouver, hardware is doled out in men's figure skating, in which 19-year-old Ottawa native and 2009 world silver medalist Patrick Chan hopes to emerge from a wide open field. In men's hockey, Sidney Crosby and the Canadian team figure to make easy work of Switzerland, while elsewhere on the ice, Kevin Martin and the Canada men's curling team goes up against Sweden. In speed skating, Canadian Christine Nesbitt goes for gold in the 1,000m. 6 PM on CTV

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Ahh, Winterlicious. The frenzy hit the city again this year, running from Jan. 29 through Feb. 11. During the food fest, price fixed menus lure in the masses — and that included us.

A guest and I visited 93 Harbord, where dinner was $25 (plus tax and gratuity).

A great deal, but was it be worth it? Here's how they did during the festival frenzy:

Decor & Space

Biscuit-coloured bricks line a long and lean space that goes back farther than you think. Soft lighting and minimalist furniture create a warm, modern space. The place was packed.

Menu

Fennel and Orange Salad with citrus vinaigrette was lovely and fresh with a tinge of smokiness. The Grilled Calamari with Turkish fig salsa was meager in both quantity (two small rings and a bit) and taste. Tagine of Spiced Chickpeas and Lamb and Shiraz Fig Tagine were fine, but disappointing. The lamb, however, was beautifully cooked pieces of red pepper and garlicky bok choy.

Service

Our server was running off his feet, but rarely to us. The chef, though, comes out to greet customers four times.

Conclusion

The night was a let down. Try it now that the frenzy of Winterlicious is over.

On the web

- Get recipes and more great food content at metronews.ca/recipes

Lamb & Shiraz Fig Tagine ($25 three-course meal)

Global Peasant blog online

- Travel along with Diane Thompson's culinary adventures in her Global Peasant blog.
- Check out metronews.ca/globalpeasant for a recipe of elk and oysters.

Dining out

ANOTHER YEAR You don't expect much for your birthday these days. But thanks to Benihana Japanese Steakhouse, dinner's on them this year. Benihana's complimentary Teppanyaki Dinner is prepared at a teppanyaki table with a wide variety of Japanese choices. Go to fairmont.com and click on Benihana or call 416-860-5002 for more information.

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METRO TORONTO

In brief

SWEET STUFF Stand out desserts can be found at Lemon Tree Patisserie. Creator and Founder Kelly Lee makes gorgeous cakes, tarts and cookies from scratch. But you've got to try her Macarons -French pastries made with nut flours (gluten-free) and sandwiched with a ganache, buttercream, or fruit filling. Go to lemontreepat.com or call 416-970-1359.

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A touchdown in the courtroom
Tila Tequila and ex-boyfriend Shawne Merriman have settled their legal disputes with each other, femalefirst.co.uk reports. Tequila had accused the San Diego Chargers footballer of assaulting her during an altercation at his home in November. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Celebrity Buzz

A simple wedding

FITTING, AS THEY'RE JUST A COUPLE OF HUMBLE COUNTRY FOLK If you are hoping for an over-the-top platinum wedding when Nicole Richie and Joel Madden tie the knot this summer, you should think again. Friends of the couple tell popeater.com to expect a simple classic ceremony — with no Paris Hilton in sight.

"Nicole wants to keep the ceremony to close friends and family. It will be traditional with a simple white dress and very private," a Richie pal told the website. "Lionel Richie will give her away. However, old BFF Paris Hilton will not be a bridesmaid."

The couple, who have been dating since December 2006, are said to have decided it was time to say "I do" following the tragic death of Richie's childhood friend, Casey Johnson.

"The awful event made Nicole realize how happy she was being a mother and how happy she will be to finally call herself a wife," a source added.

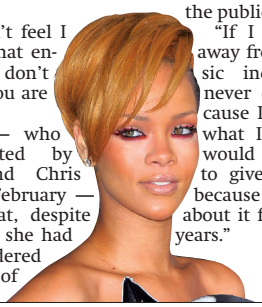
METRO NEWS SERVICES

Nothing gonna keep her down

NOT EVEN A JERKY EX BOYFRIEND. YOU GO, GIRL! Rihanna thinks people perceive her to be a "b—," femalefirst.co.uk reports.

The singer says her shy side is often mistaken for rudeness because she isn't always open and chatty when she meets new people.

"I don't really open up to a lot of people, usually I go very quiet," she told WPGC radio.



"I just don't feel I have to be that enthusiastic if I don't know who you are yet."

Rihanna — who was assaulted by then-boyfriend Chris Brown last February — also said that, despite the incident, she had never considered stepping out of the public eye.

"If I could step away from the music industry? I'd never do that because I really love what I do and it would be a shame to give this away because I dreamt about it for so many years."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Marriage: great for your sex life

THERE'S NOTHING HOTTER THAN FARTING IN BED AND FLOSSING YOUR TEETH TOGETHER Valentine's Day apparently isn't over yet. Celebrating her first wedding anniversary next month, newlywed Natasha Bedingfield is "loving" being a Mrs. and enjoying the perks of being married — including a steamy sex life, reports people.com

"The best thing about being a married woman is sleeping naked every-day," Bedingfield said. And still liking the guy that I'm with."

Though clothing may be optional for the British singer-songwriter, 28, she says the romance between her and California businessman husband Matthew Robinson is spicier than ever.

"He keeps the romance alive," she added.

METRO WORLD NEWS

Mayer won't be jumping on Oprah's couch

DID ANYONE ACTUALLY READ THE ORIGINAL ARTICLE? CONTEXT, PEOPLE John Mayer may need to rehabilitate his image after his remarkably candid Playboy interview, but he won't be able to do it on Oprah Winfrey's couch.

"Oprah is the smartest person on TV and will not let John use her or her show to ask for forgiveness," sources tell Popeater.

"If John really wants to apologize for his racist and sexist comments, he should find somewhere else. The only way Oprah, who is a dear friend of Jennifer Aniston, would ever book him is if John were interested in having a much deeper conversation about race, women and fame."

METRO WORLD NEWS

Locking up every juicy detail

SO THERE ARE WORSE THINGS BEYOND THE HEAD SHAVING, UNDERWEAR SWIMMING AND DRIVING WITH HER BABY IN HER LAP? AWESOME Lawyers for Britney Spears are working to have medical records and other personal information for the singer and her two young sons sealed, according to legal papers obtained by TMZ.

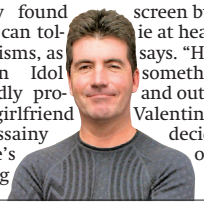
"Photographs and personal information, particularly information of a highly confidential nature (such as personal medical information of Ms. Spears and her children), can potentially reap thousands if not millions of dollars," the documents state.

"The possibility of such enormous profits presents a substantial risk that Ms. Spears' most confidential medical and personal information will be disclosed."

METRO WORLD NEWS

Simon calls Mezhgan over

10 POINTS IF YOU CAN SAY HER NAME CORRECTLY ON THE FIRST TRY Looks like Simon Cowell finally found someone who can tolerate his criticisms, as the American Idol judge reportedly proposed to girlfriend Mezhgan Hussainy on Valentine's Day, according to Australia's Herald Sun.



"Simon may come across as Mr. Nasty on screen but he's a big softie at heart," a source says. "He wanted to do something unexpected and out of character on Valentine's Day and decided to splash out on a ring."

METRO WORLD NEWS

Gerard does the mambo

HORIZONTAL OR NOT A week after celebrating Jennifer Aniston's birthday in Mexico, Gerard Butler was spotted all over Rio de Janeiro this week for Carnival with a selection of attractive women, sources tell Page Six.

First there was a Brazilian soap star and Rita Guedes, followed by a sequin-clad brunette and newly single Pussycat Dolls singer Nicole Scherzinger, whom Butler chatted up on the beach. While in Brazil, the Scotsman also managed to find time to socialize with Madonna and her companion, Jesus Luz.

METRO WORLD NEWS

Bill Clinton is his idol

BUT FOR HIS CIGAR HOLDING NOT HIS POLITICS Frederic von Anhalt, self-proclaimed European royalty and Zsa Zsa Gabor's eighth husband, is planning to run for governor of California, according to the Associated Press.

"I went through lots of things, lots of scandals, but that was yesterday, that's old news," von Anhalt says.

"Look at what Bill Clinton did in the White House. That was bad, but he got away with it. America gives you a break."

If elected, he says he will legalize marijuana and prostitution and lift the ban on Cuban cigars.

METRO WORLD NEWS

Follow these celebrities on Twitter...

CelebTweets

LINDSAY LOHAN has her coping techniques, **DANNY MASTERSON** is reminiscing, **NEIL GAIMAN** is trying to pace himself, and **NEIL DIAMOND** is looking for a little help.

@lindsaylohan ignoring real world issues/reality

@dannymasterson I miss heath ledger.

@neilhimself Knocking off early, otherwise I'll get further into this script and look up and it'll be 6 am again. G'night all & bald Watcher on the Moon.

@NeilDiamond Anybody out there got a funny joke I can send in one tweet?

METRO WORLD NEWS

GETTY IMAGES

Their living arrangements are still under review

YET MORE TIGER GOSSIP As much as she's said to be interested in fixing their marriage, Elin Nordegren isn't quite ready to move back into Tiger Woods' Florida home, sources tell Radar Online.

"Tiger wants her to move back home with him but so far she has said no," the source says. "She's not ready and she just doesn't trust him."

METRO WORLD NEWS

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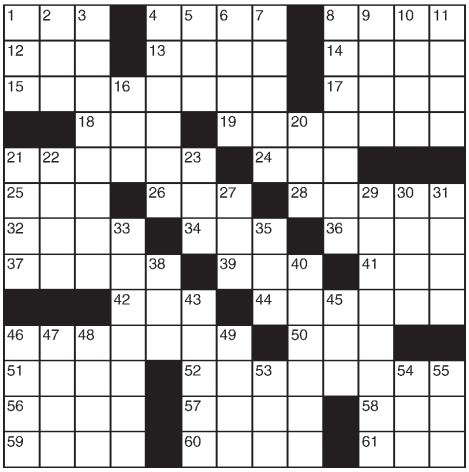

ACROSS

1 Suitable
4 Seven Dwarfs' workplace
8 Family-biz abbr.
12 To and —
13 Newspaper page
14 Inauguration recitation
15 Marinara ingredients
17 Aware of
18 Bonfire residue
19 Windows workspace
21 Infamous middle name of 1865
24 Mainlander's memento
25 Ailing
26 Massage
28 Bar legally
32 Carriage
34 Actress Dawber
36 Vagrant
37 Check recipient
39 Heavy weight
41 Cattle call
42 Stick with a kick
44 Window in a roof
46 Like Times Square on 12/31
50 Purchase
51 Wheels of fortune?
52 Annie's song
56 Maple genus
57 Thoroughfare
58 Inseparable
59 Overstudious sort
60 Bohemian
61 Pirouette pivot

DOWN

1 Sternward
2 Expert
3 Lobster liver
4 Whistler subject
5 WSJ news item
6 Require
7 Ford fizzle
8 Like 59-Across, probably
9 Carry on
10 Sgt. Snorkel's dog
11 Boutique
16 Request
20 Get a glimpse of
21 Chicken (out)
22 Hip bones
23 Dine
27 Cudgel
29 "Nonsense!"
30 Reed instrument
31 Indigent
33 Fox, for one
35 Chic, to Austin Powers
38 Conclusion
40 VIP's opposite
43 Aquarium fish
45 Capek play
46 Talon
47 Puerto —
48 Portent
49 "Let's Make a Deal" choice
53 Wrestling surface
54 Yoko of music
55 Teensy

Sudoku

For more/less challenging Sudoku puzzles, visit metronews.ca

HOW TO PLAY: Digits 1 through 9 will appear once in each zone – one zone is an outlined 3x3 grid within the larger puzzle grid. There are nine zones in the puzzle. Do not enter a digit into a box if it already appears elsewhere in the same zone, row across or column down the entire puzzle.

			1	5			6	
		8	2	6	9		7	4
		7			2	3	9	
	8	2	7			6		
3	6		5	9	8	1		
	9			4	7			

PREVIOUS DAY'S CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS:

P	O	P		D	O	D	O		A	G	E	S
A	M	O		E	V	E	R		L	A	M	E
N	I	L		F	A	C	E	V	A	L	U	E
S	T	O	O	L			O	A	R			
			D	E	B	T		N	U	T	T	Y
F	A	C	E	C	A	R	D		M	Y	R	A
A	D	Z		T	R	E	E	D		P	I	N
D	I	A	L		F	A	C	E	B	O	O	K
S	T	R	E	W		D	O	S	E			
			G	A	S			T	E	M	P	T
F	A	C	E	S	A	V	E	R		Y	E	A
A	N	O	N		N	E	R	O		T	S	P
R	I	N	D		S	T	A	Y		H	O	E

1	6	7	8	4	3	5	2	9
8	4	5	9	2	1	6	7	3
9	3	2	6	7	5	4	1	8
5	9	8	3	6	7	2	4	1
7	2	6	4	1	8	3	9	5
3	1	4	2	5	9	8	6	7
6	7	3	5	9	4	1	8	2
4	8	1	7	3	2	9	5	6
2	5	9	1	8	6	7	3	4

On the web

For more games and 60 additional daily cartoon strips, visit metronews.ca

Metro Recipe of the Day

SHANNON BROOKS

Halibut with Fresh Tomato Sauce

Submitted by Tammy Roy, St. Thomas, Ont.

INGREDIENTS:

2 large ripe tomatoes, diced
1/4 cup fresh basil, chopped
3 tbsp extra virgin olive oil
1 tbsp balsamic vinegar
1/2 lemon, juice
1 tbsp garlic, minced
4 halibut steaks
3 tbsp vegetable oil
salt and pepper to taste

METHOD:

1. Combine tomatoes, basil, olive oil, vinegar, lemon juice and garlic in a bowl. Set aside.
2. Rub fish with vegetable oil and season with salt and pepper.
3. Grill fish over medium-high fire about 5 minutes per side or until fish springs back when pushed with a finger.
4. If a barbecue is not available, cook on hot oil in a skillet for 3 minutes on each side and then put the skillet in the oven and cook for an extra 5-10 minutes.
5. Spoon some tomato sauce on 4 plates.
6. Put fish on sauce.

SERVES 4
PREP TIME: 5 MINUTES
COOK TIME: 15 MINUTES

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Horoscopes by Sally Brompton sallybrompton.com

For Sally's expanded daily and weekend horoscopes, visit metronews.ca

ARIES
MARCH 21-APRIL 20
The Sun enters the most reclusive area of your chart today, so make some time for yourself, if only to sit and think about the direction you want your life to go.

TAURUS
APRIL 21-MAY 21
If you want to reach your life's goal you have to join forces with those who share similar ambitions.

GEMINI
MAY 22-JUNE 21
With the Sun crossing the important midheaven angle of your chart what you do for other people now will be done for you ten times over.

CANCER
JUNE 22-JULY 22
You are advised not to complain too loudly if you are forced to do something against your will over the next 24 hours.

LEO
JULY 23-AUG 23
Financial issues of one sort or another are about to take center stage and you must not let yourself worry about them.

VIRGO
AUG 24-SEPT 22
Do whatever it takes to stay on the right side of loved ones. Fortunately, this should not be too difficult now that the Sun is moving into your opposite sign.

LIBRA
SEPT 23-OCT 23
Cosmic activity in and around the area of your chart that is said to govern both your work and your health is a sign that it is time to slow down a bit.

SCORPIO
OCT 24-NOV 22
With the Sun moving into your fellow Water sign of Pisces today the next few weeks are going to be a lot of fun.

SAGITTARIUS
NOV 23-DEC 21
It is of the utmost importance that you face up to your responsibilities, especially on the home front where loved ones are counting on you to take the lead.

CAPRICORN
DEC 22-JAN 20
Cosmic activity in the most sociable area of your chart means you can charm the birds out of the trees if you want to over the next few days.

AQUARIUS
JAN 21-FEB 18
The past few weeks have been hectic and the next few weeks won't see much of a slow down either.

PISCES
FEB 19-MARCH 20
A new solar year begins today and with both Venus, planet of love, and Jupiter, planet of luck, transiting your sign too it promises to be one of the best ever.

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Toronto Eaton Centre
Toronto Exchange Tower
Woodbine Centre
Yorkdale Mall
York Gate Mall
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2365 Yonge St. (north of Eglinton)
720 King St. W
455 Danforth Ave.
25 Davenport Rd.
29B St. Joseph St.
727 Bloor St. W
1061 St. Clair Ave. W
1500 Royal York Rd.
1750 The Queensway
980 Albion Rd.
2610 Weston Rd.
5050 Dufferin St.
1184 Kennedy Rd.

WEST

Burlington Mall
Mapleview Mall
Milton Crossroads Centre
420 Main St.

Brampton
Bramalea City Centre
2880 Queen St. E (Hwy. 7 & Airport Rd.)
55 Mountainash Rd. (Springdale Sq.)
80 Pertosa Dr.

Mississauga
Dixie Outlet Mall
Erin Mills Town Centre
Heartland Town Centre
Square One
Winston Churchill & 401
2458 Dundas St. W
6535B Mississauga Rd.
3024 Hurontario St.
6200 Dixie Rd.
34 Bristol Rd. E
4920 Tomken Rd.

Oakville
Oakville Place
RioCan Burloak
18 - 2501 Third Line
760 Pacific Rd.

NORTH

Markham
Markville Shopping Centre
Pacific Mall

Newmarket
Upper Canada Mall
1100 Gorham St.

Richmond Hill
Hillcrest Shopping Centre
11005 Yonge St.
9301 Bathurst St.

Thornhill
Promenade Mall
7171 Yonge St. (Galleria)
7378 Yonge St.

Vaughan
Vaughan Mills Outlet Mall
3 - 10019 Keele St.
2 - 160 Cidermill Ave.
4000 Hwy. 7

Woodbridge
4220 Steeles Ave. W

EAST

Ajax
RioCan Durham

Pickering
Pickering Town Centre

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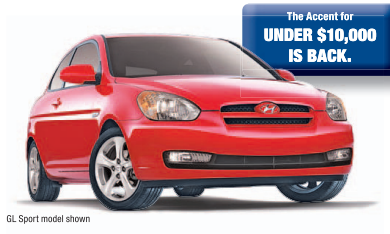

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GRADUATE REBATE PROGRAM

™The Hyundai names, logos, product names, feature names, images and slogans are trade marks owned by Hyundai Auto Canada Corp. ♦Prices for models shown: 2010 Accent 3 DR GL Sport 5-speed is $14,449/2010 Elantra Touring GLS Sport is $21,899/2010 Sonata V6 Limited $29,499/2010 Santa Fe Limited is $35,799/2009 Elantra Limited is $20,295. Delivery and Destination charges of $1,495 for 2010 Accent/$1,495 for 2010 Elantra Touring/$1,565 for 2010 Sonata/$1,760 for 2010 Santa Fe/$1,495 for 2009 Elantra, registration, insurance, license fees and all applicable taxes are excluded. Delivery and destination charge includes freight, P.D.E., dealer admin fees and a full tank of gas. ◊Purchase financing available O.A.C. from Hyundai Financial Services on 2010 Accent 3Dr/2010 Elantra Touring/2010 Sonata/2010 Santa Fe/2009 Elantra models with a finance rate of 0%/0%/0%/0%/0% for 36/36/36/60/36 month terms. Financing example: 2010 Accent L 3Dr 5-speed for $9,999 at 0% per annum equals $319.28 per month for 36 months for a total obligation of $11,494. Cash price is $11,494. Example price includes Delivery & Destination of $1,495. Example price excludes registration, insurance, licence fees and all applicable taxes. ♦♦Offers available for a limited time and subject to change or cancellation without notice. See dealer for complete details. Dealer may sell for less. Inventory is limited, dealer order may be required. ^Government star ratings are part of the U.S. National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's (NHTSA's) New Car Assessment Program (www.safercar.gov). U.S. Model tested with standard impact airbags (SABs). ΩThe Hyundai Elantra received the lowest number of problems per 100 vehicles among compact cars in the proprietary J.D. Power and Associates 2009 U.S. Initial Quality Study℠. Study based on responses from 80,930 U.S. new-vehicle owners, measuring 245 models and measures opinions after 90 days of ownership. Proprietary study results are based on experiences and perceptions of owners surveyed in February-May 2009. Your experiences may vary. Visit jdpower.com. ¤ecoENERGY Initiatives help Canadians use energy more efficiently, boost renewable energy supplies and develop cleaner energy technologies. ‡You may qualify for an additional incentive if you own a 1995 model year and older vehicle and participate in the National Retire Your Ride Program. For more information about the Retire Your Ride Program visit www.retireyourride.ca. Some conditions apply, see dealer for details. ‡‡Hyundai's Comprehensive Limited Warranty coverage covers most vehicle components against defects in workmanship under normal use and maintenance conditions.
Veracruz / $1,000 - 2009 Azera / $500 - 2010 Accent / $500 - 2010 Elantra sedan / $500 - 2010 Elantra Touring / $500 - 2010 Genesis Coupe / $500 - 2010 Sonata / $1,000 - 2010 Veracruz / $500 - 2010 Santa Fe). Clean Air Cash will be applied to reduce the after-tax purchase price of your new Hyundai vehicle. By participating in this program you will not be eligible for any trade-in value for your old vehicle. For more information about the Graduate Rebate Program, see your dealer for eligible vehicles and full details of the Graduate Rebate Program.